THE Armstrong BOOK OF INTERIOR DECORATION

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FOREWORD

Decorating a room! Even the thought is exciting. Decorating is so many things: a chance for self-expression, a chance to dream and to plan, a challenge—and most of all, a gay exhilarating adventure!

Unfortunately, many women are unable to capture the full joy of such a delightful project because they approach it too timidly. They want to express their individuality, but they're not sure they know enough to make a sound decision. Or, perhaps they're afraid of repeating a past mistake. Attempting it a second time, they want to be sure—but they don't quite know how.

We believe this book, properly used, can give those who are hesitant the confidence they lack. Any of the rooms illustrated throughout these pages can be duplicated in your own home almost down to the last thread. The photographs and the floor plans show what to do—the text explains why. But beyond that, this book can give the already confident home decorator a new source of ideas—for every room in the home.

We have given special attention to the problems of remodeling existing homes as well as imaginative ways to make the most of the limited space in new homes. Many of the decorating ideas were designed to balance beauty with a budget; in others, the budget was not a major consideration. But even if the budget is a consideration, if the idea appeals to you, the wonderful range of furniture and fabrics available today can offer a close economical substitute.

One of the distinguishing features of modern decorating is its freedom and flexibility. Today the homemaker can give free rein to her own individuality. There is no need for slavish conformity to a set of rules. You will find this reflected in the breadth of decorating ideas in this book—and in the lack of any rigid code of decorating.

Household furnishings no longer subscribe to the set periods of design—their origin is international. It is possible to mix the oriental and exotic with the traditional and modern. The result of such a combination is more fun, more highly individualized rooms, more variety!

To a great extent, modern living, for the average family, encompasses more activities and less space, more hobbies and almost non-existent help. As a consequence, we now have family rooms, often in place of living rooms. We have double-duty furniture, camouflaged dining space, and concealed television sets and desks or whatever else can be cabinet-covered to achieve simple unbroken wall space.

Simplicity or lack of clutter is perhaps the most important common denominator of modern decorating. This doesn't mean that ornaments, paintings, and sculpture are not important. They are. After their short eclipse, a generation ago, they are once more in favor. But, in today's mode of decorating, they are not strewn indiscriminately around the house. They are grouped, confined to a certain area, or they are used dramatically alone.

Today's architecture is responsible, perhaps, for the greatest changes in interior decorating. The idea of bringing the outdoors indoors means far more than picture windows. Frequently, the materials used in the structure of the house are repeated indoors. Brick and field stone walls, unheard of a generation ago, are now often seen indoors, and, frequently, the rugged woods of the exterior are continued inside. Then there is the seemingly limitless use of glass. This mixture of textures has had an exciting influence and has contributed extensively to the vibrant character of present-day interiors. In remodeling, there is a trend to return to pure architectural lines—to eliminate extraneous ornamentation of every nature.

In keeping with this architectural precedent, furniture, like a good helpmeet, has adapted itself to the change. The open-floor plan of most modern houses has brought delightful changes in furniture, too. Most of all, it has opened up a new world of color. Today, a single tone or related tones wing their way through an entire house. Room dividers have also added spaciousness and a freewheeling mood to modern living. Careful planning can enhance the charm of it all and add freedom without sacrificing privacy. We have incorporated many ideas in this direction in the illustrations and suggestions on the following pages.

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COLOR MATCHING AND PATTERN AVAILABILITY Furnishings and interior finish materials, such as floors, walls, ceilings and fabrics shown in this book, are presented for ideas and color coordination only. We cannot guarantee exact duplication of the color values of the various Armstrong products or other home furnishings illustrated in this book, because of color printing limitations. The availability of specific patterns and stylings can be determined only by checking local sources.

INTRODUCTION

This book really began in 1917 with a letter. The letter was from a reader of The Saturday Evening Post who had just seen the first advertisement showing Armstrong Linoleum in a room. Unfortunately, we don't know who wrote the letter or what she said—but it probably went something like this: "I have a decorating problem. Can you help me?" Since 1917, thousands of women have written to us every year, asking the same question.

To offer some expert help in answering that question and the many like it that followed, we turned to Mr. Frank Alvah Parsons, head and motivating factor of the famous decorating school which bears his name, the Parsons School of Design in New York City. For several years, Mr. Parsons decorated the rooms for the first Armstrong advertisements directed to the homemakers of America.

Mr. Parsons was succeeded by Mrs. Hazel Dell Brown who, in the thirty-five years she headed the Armstrong Bureau of Decoration, became known to homemakers everywhere. Her sympathetic understanding of the problems every homemaker faces in making her home attractive and livable, and her quick suggestions, always down-to-earth, yet always sparked with a touch of the dramatic, endeared Mrs. Brown to women from coast to coast.

Year by year, Armstrong's Interior Design facilities have grown steadily. Today, at the Company's home office in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the studio employs a staff of trained decorators, headed by Mrs. Margaret Gordon Dana, an active member of the American Institute of Interior Designers (A.I.D.). In addition to designing and decorating the rooms you will find in this book, these decorators spend much of their time answering the letters that continue to fill our mailbox every day.

Why does interior decoration occupy such an unusually important position in the activities of a manufacturer of building and interior finish materials? The reason comes from that first letter. We realized long ago that women don't buy a floor or a ceiling, a wall covering or a counter-top—they are searching for beauty for their homes, some-

thing to make the home not only more practical—but most of all to enhance the entire aesthetic effect of the house. In the pages of the magazines they read, these women are looking not for products—but for ideas.

From this realization came Armstrong's stress upon interior decoration, with our products displayed in settings that would demonstrate, in a tastefully decorated room, how the homemaker could solve her decorating problems and make her home a place of which she could be truly proud. The thousands of letters testify to the way readers of Armstrong idea pages have responded year after year. They want to know the sources of the furniture we use, the lamps, the fabrics, the curtains—everything in the room. Frequently, they seek accurate dimensions and prices. Countless women have told us they tear the Armstrong pictures out of the magazines and save them in their own decorating scrapbooks. Hundreds, too, have asked us if we couldn't make available a collection of these illustrations. In answer to these requests, we have compiled this book.

The Armstrong Book of Interior Decoration is divided into three main sections. The first section contains suggestions for each of the main rooms of the house. The second section includes architectural plans and sketches of the interiors of several complete houses to demonstrate how a complete house can be planned as one decorative unit. The third section shows floor plans and elevations for many of the rooms in the book.

As you may suspect, resilient floors are shown in the room illustrations. Today, the acceptance of these materials is so general that decoration often starts with the floor. With the tremendous range of modern floors like vinyl, rubber, cork, and linoleum—and the limitless choice of colors and designs—floors can be selected to fit the particular character of any room in the house.

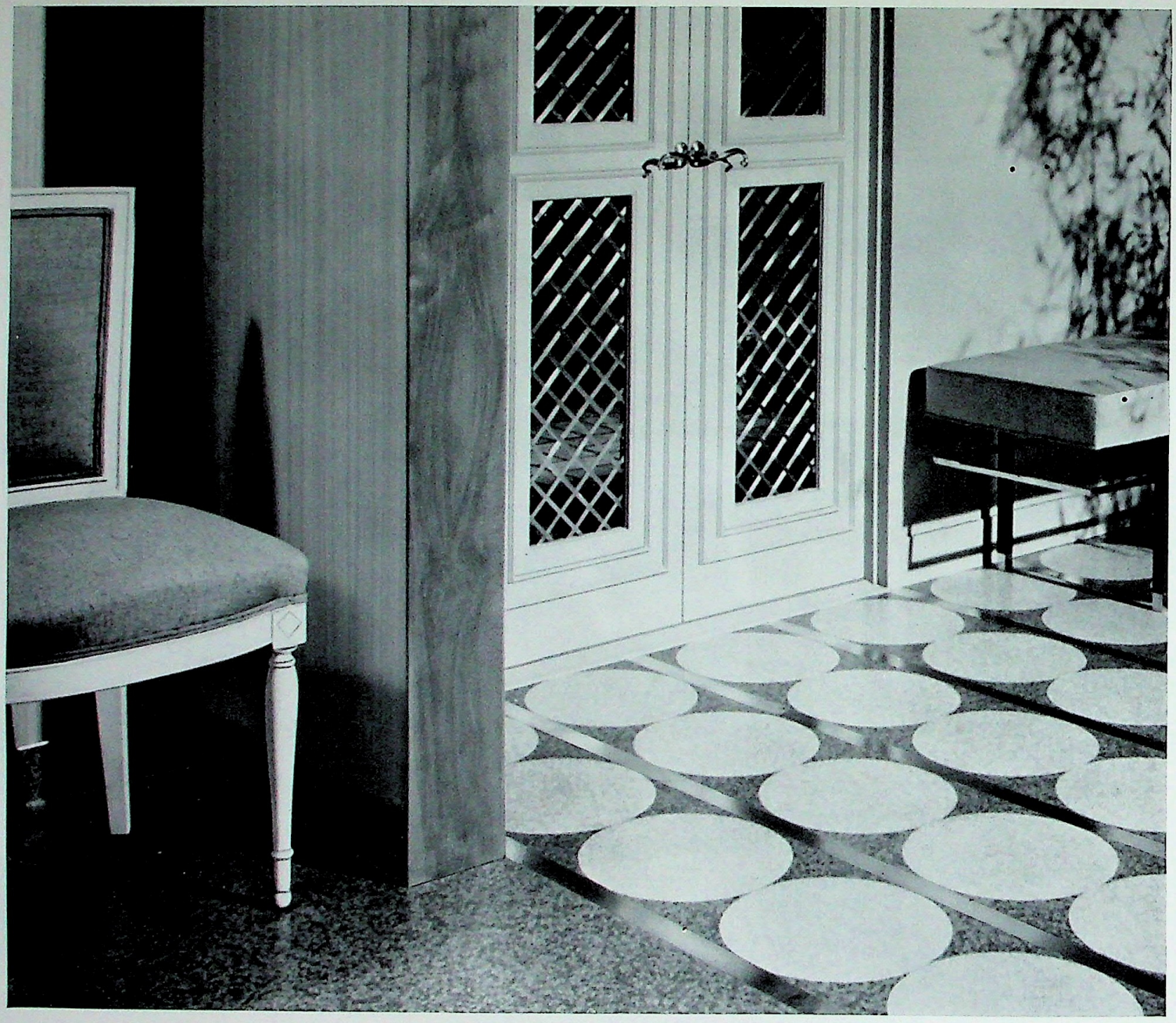
However, since this book is edited principally as a service for homemakers, flooring materials in themselves are given only the recognition they would normally warrant in the total decoration of a room.

INVITING ENTRANCE HALLS

Your entrance hall sets the tone of your house. Like the opening chapter of a good book or the overture to an exciting musical, it should establish a mood and hint at what lies beyond. And in this day of the open-planned house, your entrance hall assumes a new importance. It has become the keynote for the rooms plainly visible beyond.

In the following pages, we have shown a few examples of gracious entrance halls, varied in character but all designed around a few basic principles that are easy to follow no matter how big or how small, how simple or how elaborate your entrance hall may be. Simplicity, serenity, and a feeling of spaciousness are the basic qualities to strive for. If space does not exist, it can be achieved. A minimum of furniture and mirrors can make any small room look generous in size. An entrance hall requires a minimum of furniture. The walls and floors are the important features. Use color that carries on into the room beyond. When there is no breaking point in tone, a feeling of space is created and an invitation to move on into the next room.

Lighting is almost equally important. Your entrance hall should be flooded with soft mellow light whether natural or artificial. There is nothing so unwelcoming as a dark entrance hall or one with harsh overhead lighting. A handsome floor can do wonders to make a hall dramatic. This is a good place to give your tastes full rein—a chance to establish your feeling for modern or traditional or to show a sophisticated liking for both. Your entrance hall can by itself bid your guests a cordial welcome.



MODERN WITH TRADITIONAL. The dramatic quality of this entrance hall is achieved by the floor. Inlaid brass strips punctuate the disc-dotted vinyl flooring. The metal harmonizes with the brass grille in the door and gives this hall an impression of elegance and importance. IN THIS DIRECTOIRE ENTRANCE HALL *(opposite)*, a large door and two windows on the same wall posed an interesting problem. To give unity to these three openings, the pointed design of the woodwork at the top of the door was repeated over the windows. For further simplicity, the wall was given a single sweep of color by carefully matched draperies from the ceiling to the floor. The draperies were held high with handsome brass tiebacks both to emphasize the unity of design and to allow a maximum of light. The traditional white high-backed chairs and the brocade-covered table in front of the window matched the proper formal note for the area.

Floor plan and wall elevations for room opposite, page 168

MODERN AND SMALL *(opposite)*, but charmingly uncluttered and effective. Black, white, brass, and bittersweet. There is much to be learned from this stylish, small interior. First of all, an unframed mirror is used for practically one entire wall. This makes the room seem double its size and gives the table an importance that its narrow width denies. Notice the combination of modern materials. The starry light fixture would gain attention in any room, but here it is an airy burst of brass, repeated in the stair rails and the legs of the table. To set off the brass, nothing could be smarter than the black-and-white flooring. Notice how the tiles pace off to make the space look larger, and how the color scheme has been reversed to emphasize the separate powder room. Black woodwork and a black tabletop unify the color scheme.

THIS RANCH-HOUSE ENTRANCE HALL reveals the dining area beyond, and the need for color harmony is obvious. The ceiling-to-floor glass panel at the right of the door is the clue to the whole interior. This is a good example of how the outdoors can be brought indoors to form part of the decorating scheme. To enlarge the theme, a luxurious foliage design on fabric was used to panel the wall. Wallpaper, of course, could be used. But in this instance, the fabric was repeated in the draperies in the next room. This follow-through in pattern and color is one of the most effective ways to achieve spaciousness in a small house. Notice, too, the selection of a long oversized mirror. It makes the hall wider and reflects the outdoor light. The cantilevered telephone shelf is a space-saver, as is the tufted stool that slips beneath it.

HARMONY can be achieved by color alone. Here the planting and the directional design of the floor help to carry the eye from one area to the next. Note how the background colors are neutral and how the brilliant tones of the upholstery harmonize with the painting on the dining-room wall. When your background tone is cool and quiet, choose a painting in warm dynamic colors and work your upholstery and accessory colors around it. This entrance hall illustrates perfectly the modern enthusiasm for blending interiors with the verdant outdoors. REGENCY HALL *(opposite)*. In every sense of the word this hall is the hub of the house. Doors placed diagonally at either side of the dominant wall space reveal the formal and spacious living areas on either side. A library is at the right, a living room at the left. To unify all three areas, the colors for the hall were selected with great care. The soft tones of green and rose in the floor furnish a quiet keynote to the muted elegance of the rest of the house. The metal inset in the floor emphasizes the unusual shape of the room and reflects the massive brass grillwork in the doors. This custom detail is a good example of what can be done to elaborate and prolong a decorating theme. To prove that elegance is not dependent on profusion, this spacious entrance hall has only three pieces of furniture and two accessories—a beautifully proportioned regency sofa, a table, a mirror (not shown in the picture), a crystal chandelier, and a handsomely framed family portrait.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 169

MOBILITY IN LIVING AREAS

Despite rapid changes of custom and habit, the living room is still the room of first importance in every home. It is the showplace of the house, the room in which the tastes and talents of the homemaker are expressed for the enjoyment of family and friends. Because many families spend more time at home today, the living room is more in use. Functional as well as purely decorative considerations are more important than ever. There must be more space for activities. Elaborate and expensive carpeting has given way in many homes to small area rugs. Functional lighting is emphasized, and there is an increase in the use of artful cabinetwork. The open floor plan of many modern homes has revised people's thinking about furniture arrangement. As a result, designers consider all sides of a new piece so that it will be attractive no matter how it is placed. Chairs may be aligned to form walking or aisle space. The highly stylized living-room arrangement with furniture lined along the walls has become the less formal room with smaller furniture groupings which allow for more intimate conversation and conveniently separate the cardplayers from the television viewers. These division-of-interest units are always carried out with an eye for movement, a free flow from one section to another. It is this openness that distinguishes modern decorating from the past. The following room arrangements illustrate the charm and versatility that are possible in today's living room.

UNITY OF COLOR is the distinguishing feature of this living room. The floors, walls, and draperies are all in gold and beige, and even the lamp is merged into this rich background. Wood paneling is used in the music alcove to blend in tone and texture with the piano. For accent, two cool colors, blue with green, serve to emphasize the serenity of the whole room. The green area rug in the living room, the surf-blue upholstery on the provincial piano bench and on the pillows are added details of personal taste . . . easily changed so that a warmer, more vibrant look could be created using shades of red or rust. The step down from the hall to the living room is edged in brass, and the slender rails of the brass divider accent the warmth of the room beyond.

THE MOOD IS FRENCH PROVINCIAL *(opposite)*, but this warm and inviting living room has features that can be applied to any interior. There is an interesting blend of materials in the wall of walnut-paneled bookcases, the facing wall of rough-surfaced bricks, and the oversized fireplace with a facade of white enamel. The fireplace is in reality a recessed European stove. The floor adds a classic note to these three elements and makes a forceful and intriguing background. The fireside chairs are French provincial in a leopard upholstery fabric. The small white area rug is a striking contrast. The custom-tole lamp is hung from the ceiling by two handsome brass chains and with the French provincial table balances the weight of the fireplace wall.

A TWO-STORY LIVING ROOM. This living room, actually only 16 x 21, looks and feels much larger. An open foyer leads into it, and the high floor-to-ceiling windows open one end of the room to a view of the garden. The windows and the marble-faced fireplace join to make this wall the focal point of interest. The furniture is therefore grouped casually around it. The left wall, not shown in the picture, is paneled in walnut, and the beams and bookcases in the same dark tone blend graciously with the wooded out-of-doors. The colorful bookcases with storage bins below provide a perfect place to display the collection of primitive American Indian sculpture. The colors of the upholstery and the cork floor have been chosen to blend with the walnut. Beauty and utility are combined in one of the new acoustical ceilings.

A BLEND OF MODERN AND VICTORIAN. There is a great charm in old period pieces, and this room is an example of how to use them. First, old-fashioned tapestry was stripped from the Victorian chairs and replaced with a lively, well scaled modern upholstery, in this instance, green, white, and tan coin dots on a beige background. This gave the color scheme for the whole room. The furniture was grouped on a modern green accent rug, 'round a fireplace on the right wall which is not visible in the picture. The low lines of the Victorian chairs are in perfect balance with the completely modern white tables and accessories. The dark brown of the furniture is repeated in the wood paneling that closes off the desk and also frames the doorway to blend it into the trellised patio beyond.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 170

MODERN POMPEIAN *(opposite)*. The courtyard is the focal point in this well planned living- and dining-room area, with its enclosed patio. A cantilevered buffet and shelf space at either end of the dining room provide all the space necessary for entertaining. The blue upholstered banquette will comfortably seat at least six or seven guests, and chairs, if they are needed, can be easily drawn up to flank the other side of the table. The random use of inlaid mosaics in the vinyl floor at the entrance to the patio is particularly attractive. This is a clever way of keynoting the room and of concealing the wear and tear on this busy floor.

WHERE WALLS CAME DOWN. This remodeling problem was solved by joining two small rooms to make one spacious living area for the whole family. The old heavy stairs which dominated the narrow hall were replaced by modern spirals which changed the whole character of the interior. Sturdy ceiling beams were added; and where the beams crossed, an upright column was added for structural support. The column also served as the end of a room divider. On one side of the divider are a television set and a hi-fi; on the other is a desk. The shelves, filled with books, artwork and plants, are clues to the interests of the whole family. A concealed light in the base of the statue on the divider eliminates the need for a lamp in this area and sheds a glow over this striking and comfortable room. The curtain fabric is a lovely blending of the blues and browns of the furniture.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 171

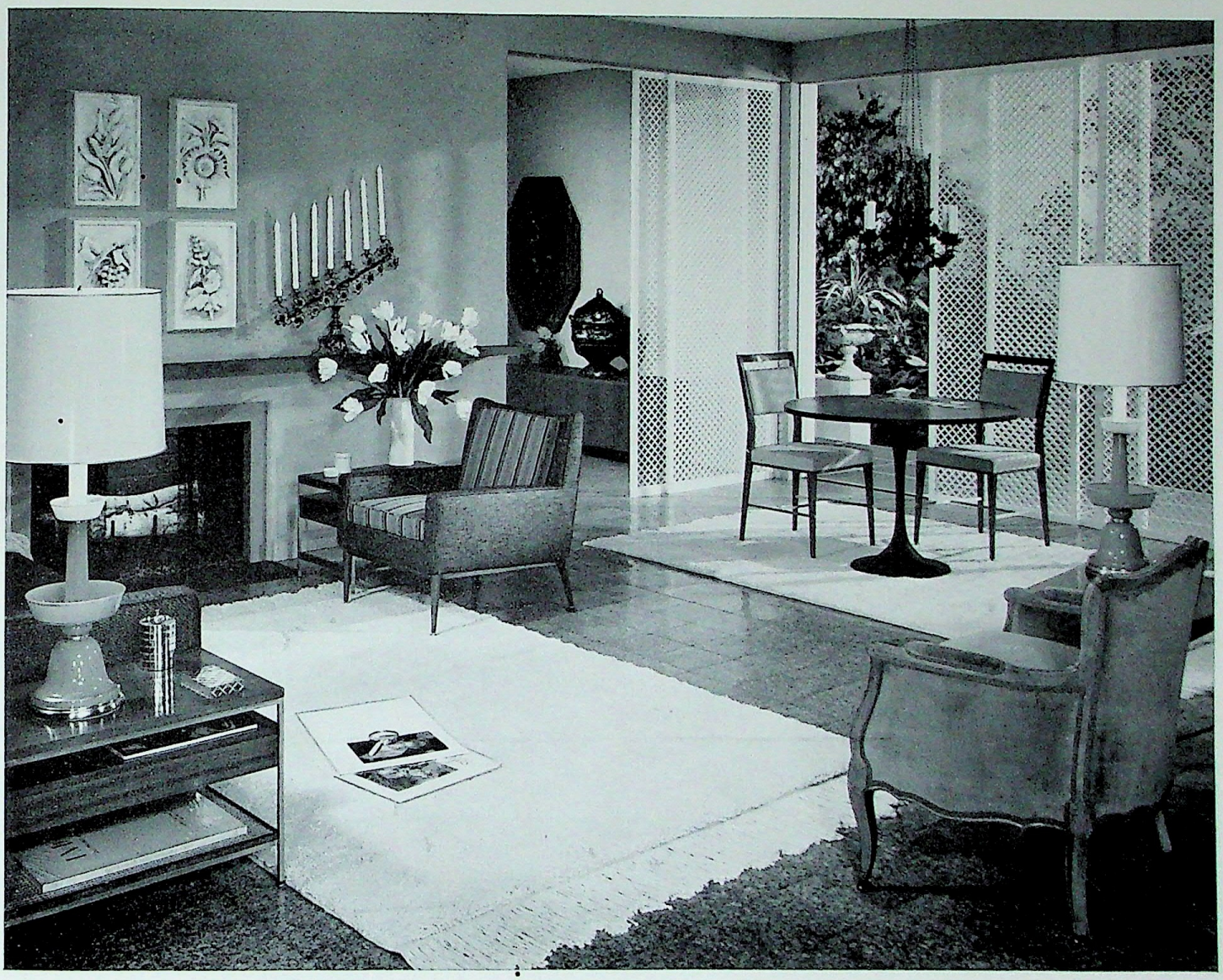
FOR LOVERS OF THE SOUTH SEAS *(opposite)*. The room is oriental-modern, and the mood, as it should be, is romantic. The lovely Korean blanket chest is not essential. The simple lines of the six-foot lounge in front of the fireplace can be easily duplicated. The oriental motifs in the white floor can be custom cut and readily inset into any modern floor. The sliding shoji screens that separate the room from the outdoor terrace and the ocean beyond are only paneled glass. With these as a base, the rest of the decor is a climax in color and simplicity. The white boxes in front of the screen are ideal for bamboo plantings, and the single hand-carved ornament at the right of the fireplace is a vase for tall flowers or flowering branches. The stark white paneling around the fireplace and a woven fiber rug are a perfect foil for the brilliantly colored upholstery and dark teak-finished woods.

IN THIS SPLIT-LEVEL HOUSE, even the colors are borrowed from the out-of-doors. The copper tones of the floor and the harmonizing walls are warm and earthy. The muted green tone is keyed to the garden, visible through the huge picture window; the flowering plants on the steps accent this garden theme. White draperies and lamps brighten the whole effect; and the draperies can be drawn at night for privacy or to filter the sunshine by day. On the left wall of the entrance hall a brilliant contemporary painting adds dignity and drama to the stairway and character to the whole house.

A CHANGE OF COLOR provides a lift. These two pictures of the same room, above and at right, show how easy it can be to change from winter to summer decoration with the same basic pieces of furniture. Start with a neutral shade—in this case gray was selected. Blend your floors, walls, and large pieces of furniture in a single peaceful color. Then have fun with the small pieces. In this instance a lively Chinese red with flowers on all the cushions gives a warm welcome in winter. A large oblong backing behind the hearth picture carries out the mood. When summer comes, the colors can all be different and most women can make the change themselves. Alternate your colors from warm to cool . . . pick blue with green . . . select another picture and another frame, take down the curtains, take up the rug, and you have a brand-new room ready for a new season.

A STAIRCASE LIVING ROOM is often a popular feature of split-level houses. Here, to create a cozy conversational group in front of the fireplace, the pattern of the flooring was used as a divider for the busy aisle to the stairs. Then a harmonizing room-sized rug was chosen to unify the living area. Next, pie-shaped tables were selected to place between the lounge chairs on both sides of the room. These, with two loveseats, made a charming semicircle around the paneled chimney wall. The piano was placed to the right with plenty of room for singers. The serving table behind one of the loveseats is both accessible and useful for a party. To take full advantage of the look-through stairs, ferns and vines were set in planters beneath them. In this way an awkward barren area was blended into the beauty of the outdoors.

• Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 172

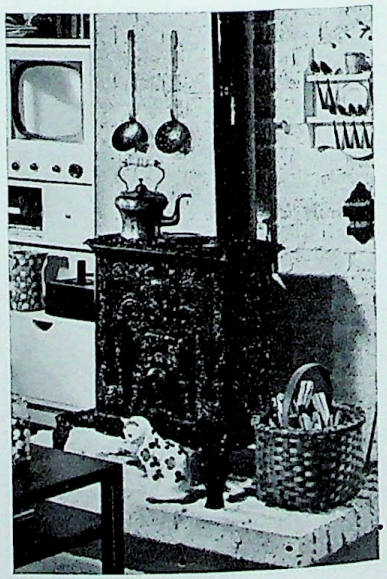


A DELIGHTFUL BLEND OF VICTORIAN WITH TODAY *(opposite)*. The marble fireplace and the ornate gold mirror tell you the room is Victorian, but a Victorian drawing room would never have been furnished with the bookshelves and the storage drawers beneath. In that era the library was for books. The chimney wall has been squared off flush with the mantle. The lovely recessed windows are not burdened with draperies so that the detail of the molding and cornices can be admired. The elegant white brocade couches allow a maximum of comfort around the hearth, with a smaller separate grouping at the game table. Here again restrained color has been highlighted with one or two bold accents to inspire a rich and restful room.

A MOROCCAN MOTIF. This room combines the gold and white of the desert sands and still retains a cool airiness as unusual as it is beautiful. The screens are clamped to ordinary glass doors and windows. They break the sun's glare and eliminate any need for curtains. They open up a view of the garden beyond and can be easily removed for painting or washing. Four sculptured white plaques over the mantelpiece echo the white of the screens, and the two accent rugs enhance a spotless interior. A small pedestal table with two formal chairs for dining adds a needed dark accent and contrasts with the brilliant blue of the table lamps. The whole room is informal, a living room and dining room too, a product of the grace of modern living.

FIREPLACE SETTINGS

A FIREPLACE IS A WONDERFUL THING. Whether you are buying an old house or building a new one, perhaps the single most important feature is the chimney! If your house is to have life and warmth, see that you have some type of fireplace in your living room and in as many more rooms as space and your budget will allow. A beautiful mantel of carved stone or marble is a priceless addition to the looks of a room, but you will have to search long today to find one (many of our modern hearths have no mantels at all). Happily, good copies of European stoves are plentiful, and Franklin stoves, just as they were in early American times, are still being built. Before you make your choice of fireplace, search carefully until you are sure. Study the examples you see here and throughout this book. Your architect or contractor can also help. Your living room can literally be built around the fireplace. There is no other feature of a house that can add so much to its charm, comfort and hospitality.



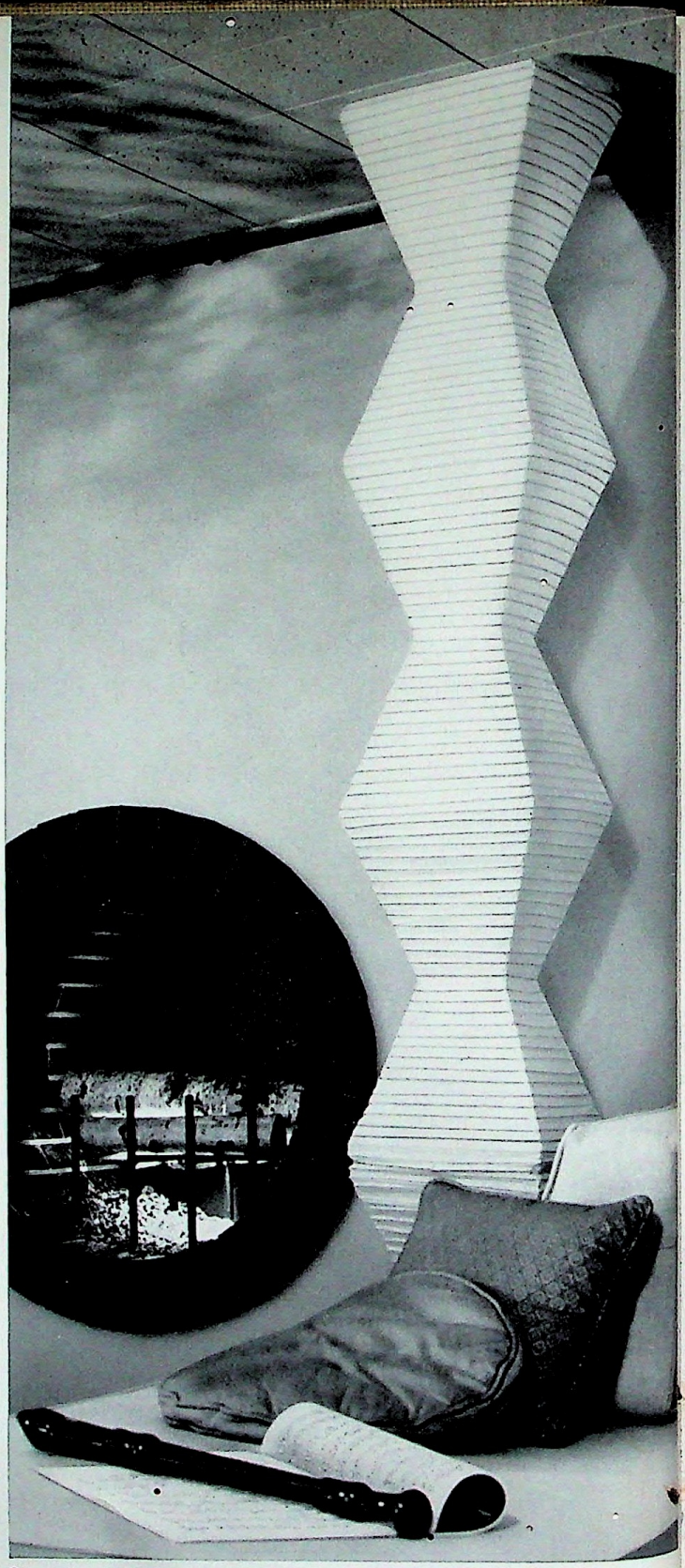
1.

DECORATIVE LIGHTING

TODAY THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR HAVING UNINTERESTING LIGHTING FIXTURES. Manufacturers are turning out wonderful new designs almost daily. These are beautifully made and authentically styled and come in such a wide variety that it is hard to choose.

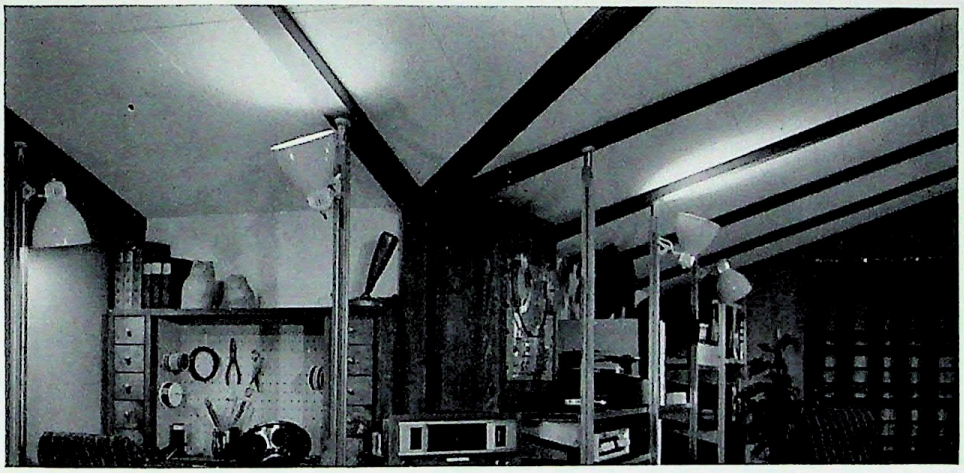
Lighting has always played an important part in decoration, but it is only in recent years that we have borrowed extensively from the theater for spotlight effects or that we have learned from industry that floodlighting, often from concealed recesses, can give us daylight brilliance and dramatic shadows throughout the house.

Because pendant lights leave table and desk tops free and help toward that look of spaciousness that is so desirable, we have used them extensively. One dramatic lighting fixture can enrich a whole room. An opulent chandelier will make an exciting contrast to austerely modern furniture. Pierced brass or a sturdy old lantern in the right spot is a key accessory when you are striving for both utility and effect. Your lighting fixtures can do as much as any piece of furniture to individualize your home. Most of those shown on these pages are readily available or can be easily copied.



2.

1. *Antique lantern and candles*
2. *Glorified Japanese lantern for pillar of light*
3. *Functional lights in slot mounting which slide up or down post*
4. *Individual bell-shaped lights hung in a line*
5. *Copy of antique Shaker fixture with pierced cylinder to hold electric floodlight. Candles remain for romantic lighting*
6. *Italian floral chandelier in gold leaf*



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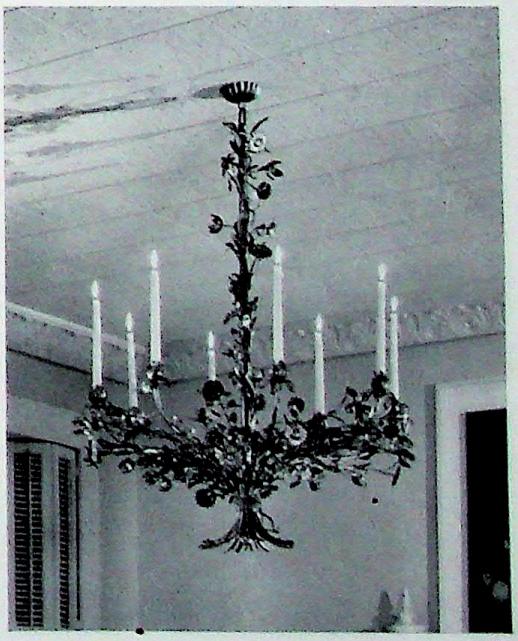
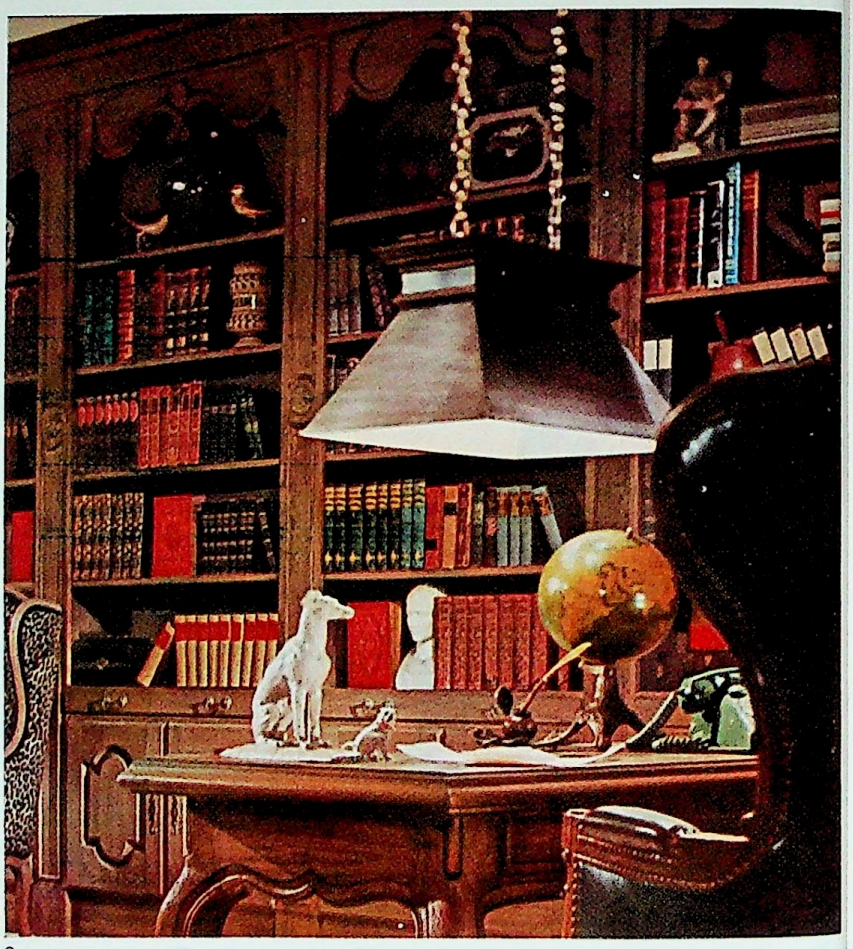


6.

7. *Electrified antique oil lamp*
8. *Custom-made tole lamp hung on brass chains*
9. *Copy of sturdy antique candelabra*
10. *Antique milk-glass oil lamp—electrified*
11. *Adjustable modern in black with brass*
12. *Pierced brass in adjustable pendant lights*



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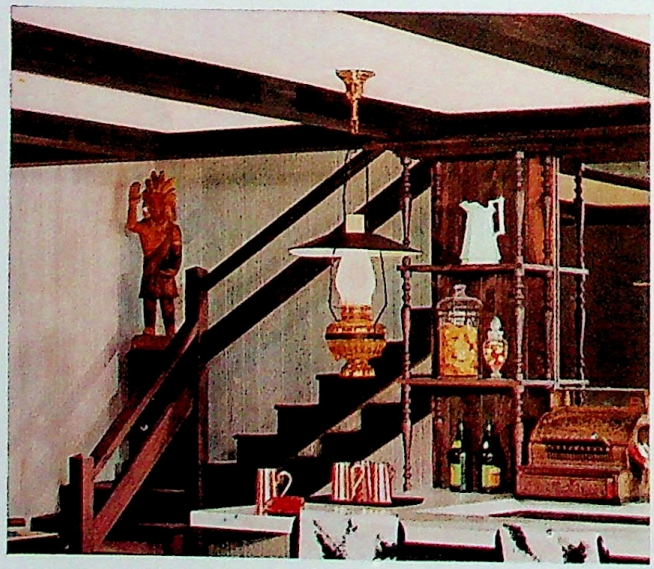

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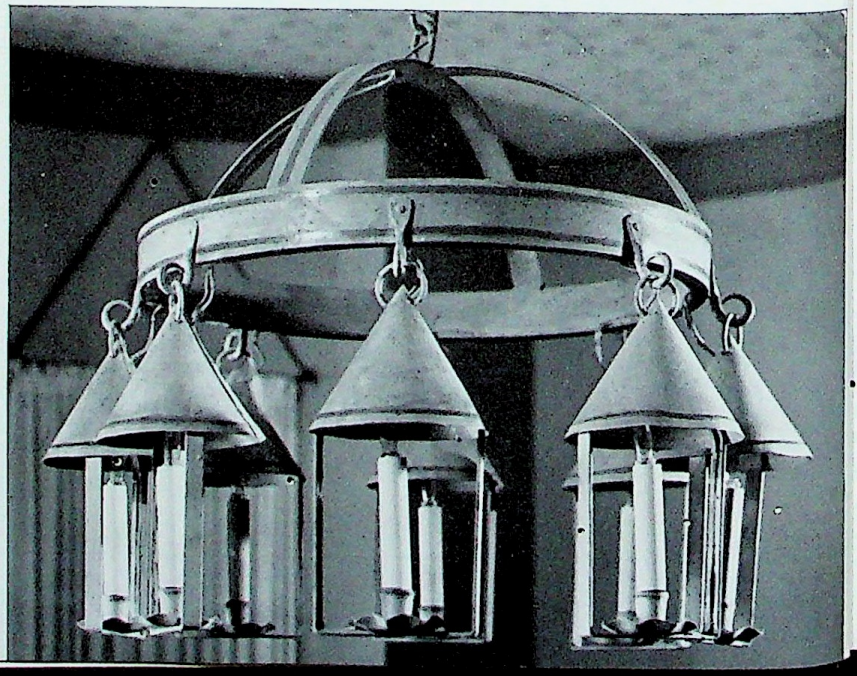

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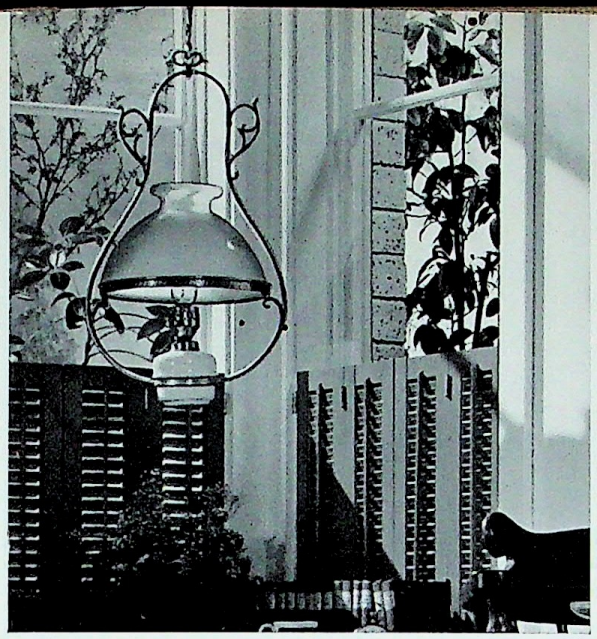

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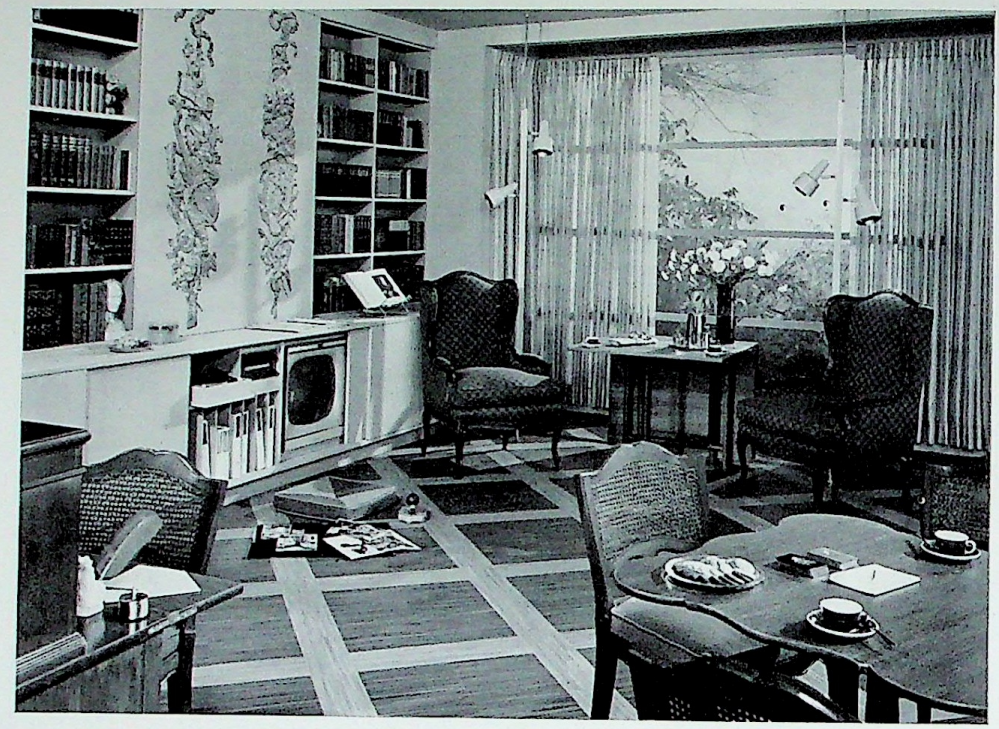
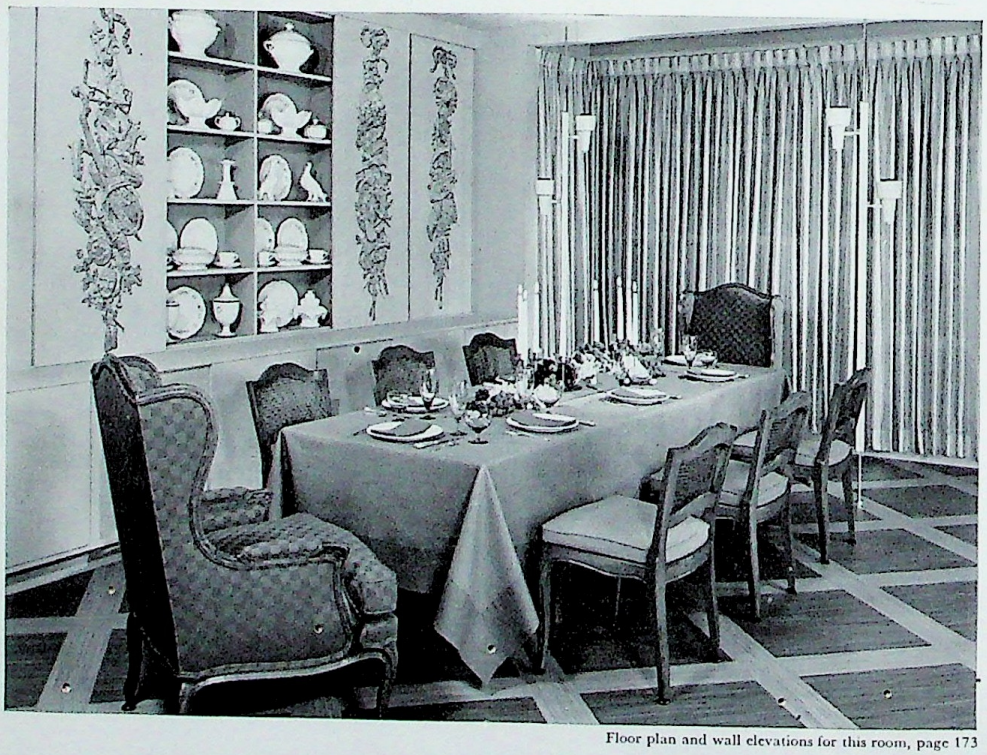
12.

INDIVIDUALITY IN DINING

One of the most striking evidences of change in today's living is the diminishing number of formal dining rooms. This does not mean that in the modern house the formal dining room no longer exists. Indeed, surveys show that women with families would prefer a separate dining room. It does mean that casual dining is much more the order of the day. Without servants, the space needed for a separate dining room is something of an extravagance, especially when building costs are high. As a result, dining areas have been cleverly set apart at the ends of living rooms or entrance halls. There are family rooms with convertible space for dining, and kitchen-dining rooms where the cook can take part in the family conversation as she works. The spontaneity, the informality, that such arrangements make possible more than make up for the settled domestic ease of "Life with Father."

Today the proud possessor of a formal dining room is apt to keep it very formal. "Let it be small but let it be lavish," is likely to be her point of view. These sanctuaries set apart for dining often contain the richest and most elaborate furnishings in the house. The collection of dining rooms shown on the following pages runs a wide gamut. In addition to simple kitchen-dining areas and elaborately formal dining rooms, it includes ideas for dining rooms that can be converted for family use all through the day.





A MAGIC DOUBLE-PURPOSE ROOM. This is a remodeling job undertaken for a family who needed an activities room and where the only available space was the old formal dining room. First the clumsy bay window at the end of the room was changed into the floor-to-ceiling awning window you see in the illustration. The two feet of wall depth at the left of the window were converted into shelves and storage space. This relatively inexpensive cabinetwork now houses the television and a record player, and the shelves above can be either bookcases or a china closet. The lower illustration shows how the panels (covered with wallpaper) slide back and forth. The modern dropleaf table at the window extends to seat eight when needed, and an elegant dining area is available.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 173

FROM THE JAPANESE. This open dining area between kitchen and living room has much to recommend it. The room dividers are Japanese shoji sliding panels of translucent Fiberglas, operated from narrow tracks in the ceiling. The living room and kitchen can be easily shut off and the dining room made as private as desired. The hall divider, when closed, provides wonderful wall space for buffets. The screens and all of the furnishings are Japanese in feeling. The teak-finished bamboo chairs are just as right in the living room as they are around the table, which incidentally opens out to seat eight when needed. In the living room the paneled wall screen is oriental, as is the low brass-trimmed chest in front of the window leading to the garden. A jade vinyl floor outlined in black and white unifies the entire area.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 174

SUNNY AND SPANISH. To any decorator the words are a challenge—and a chance to combine rugged materials with daring color. The result, as shown in our illustration, is a warm, convivial dining room. Two king-sized arches, instead of conventional windows, contributed most to the feeling of Spain. The richly carved treatment of the stained pine chest below also helped. As a relief to the dark tones of the wood, white Moroccan screening was introduced at one end of the room and hung with dramatic Mexican plates. Bright accent colors in the floor and furnishings add to the provincial charm. The candle chandelier suspended on chains lent more strong character to the room, and the custom-built octagonal tabletop added an atmosphere of hospitality and invitation.

A GOOD DIVIDER ADDS SPACE *(opposite)*. This kitchen-dining area was once two rooms—both unpleasantly small. First of all, the wall was taken down and two-way cabinet and counter space built in its place. In the kitchen jalousies were introduced between the work counter and the cabinets for light and ventilation. In the dining room the old windows were replaced by one large rectangular bay window finished with glass on its three sides as well as on top. Plants were better than curtains for an open airy look into the garden and a pleasant feeling of space. The unifying factor is the floor. The embossed flagstone linoleum sweeps under the raised cabinets and sets the color scheme. An excellent solution to the problem of an old house, this arrangement applies equally well to a new house.

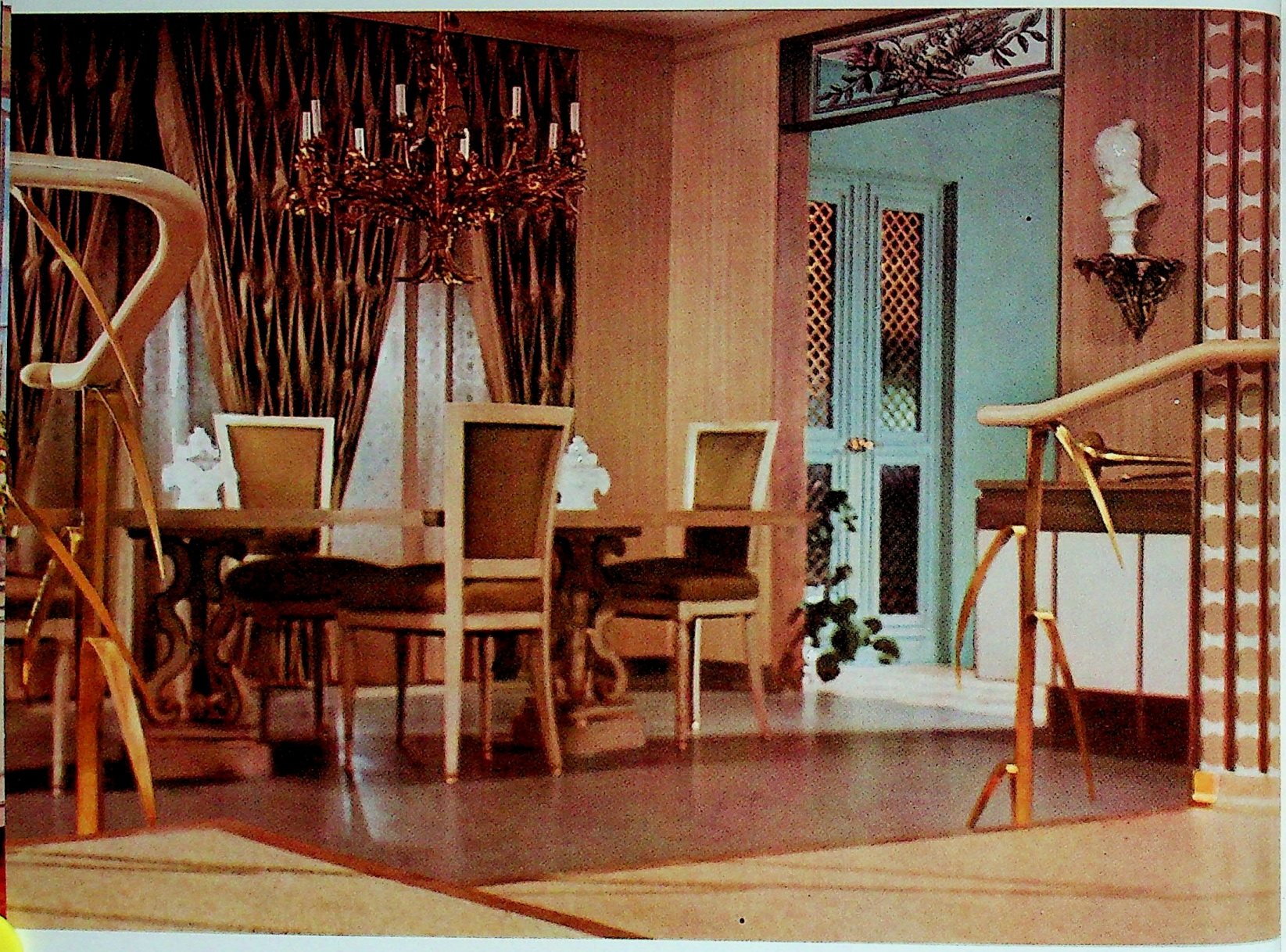
Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 175

ADD A DIAGONAL DINING ROOM. If your house is built with two outside walls that make an L, you can add a whole new room, in this case a formal dining room, by connecting them by a diagonal glass wall of insulating windows. The other two walls are already there! In a room like this, the decorating details are all-important. A rich crystal chandelier and antique lighting fixtures establish the fact that your dining room is formal. The shutters and counter space built into the kitchen window match the panels in the doors. A black-and-white floor accents the design of the room and adds another formal note. The rich provincial chairs and the gracious lines of the table add the finishing touch to the hospitable atmosphere of this room.

SKYLIGHT DINING HAS CHARM *(opposite)*. In this single-story house the dark end of a long living room has been transformed into an enchanting dining space. For light and airiness, skylight paneling was introduced into the roof, and to keep the sun off the table, straw matting that can be easily moved back and forth was added. The straw is in perfect keeping with the Chinese interior. Two low planters filled with gravel and pots of white chrysanthemums serve as room dividers. To help separate the entrance hall from the dining space huge temple tassels hang like sentinels on guard. Sheer draperies, to match those over the windows, are hung on the post-and-beam divider that marks the living area, and can be pulled close when greater intimacy is wanted.

TROMPE L'OEIL WINDOWS. This shows what can be created from a most unpromising beginning, in this case, an ugly old-fashioned kitchen whose one window looked out on a city street. First a mural wallpaper was found that gave the effect of two windows and was the keynote for the whole room. The paneled pattern of the paper was repeated in the kitchen cabinets; the kitchen curtains were chosen to match the "curtains" on the mural. A narrow dividing wall was introduced with see-through shelves for a display of glass; an authentic French lavabo decorates the center panel. The result is a comfortable but elegant dining room and a small but efficient kitchen. The French country chairs with their tie-on cushions added a final harmonious note.

ELEGANCE CAN BE CONDENSED. This is a perfect example of a small formal dining room, luxurious, and completely separate from the living quarters of the house. Several materials have been combined—a handsomely paneled door, a brick wall, and a soft silk fabric shirred across the paneled cabinets. The pedestal of the round table was once the base of an old baptismal font; the top is black marble. Against this variety of materials the color scheme is a single muted pastel green, the perfect background for the white bergère chairs. While the uncluttered look is strictly modern, all the accessories are traditional from the table candelabra to the Staffordshire displayed on the shelves.



HALF MODERN—HALF TRADITIONAL. This dining room in quiet tones of beige and brown is handsome enough for the most luxurious taste. Yet the draperies, despite their distinguished appearance, are only smocked sateen. Other details of the room are equally simple. The transom panel in the doorway is a cut-out wallpaper design placed between glass. The dramatic wall panel at the far right is only wallpaper with narrow strips of walnut vertically applied to break up the bold pattern. The table consists of two antique pedestal bases with a top of massive plate glass. The gilded chandelier blends superbly with the modern brass stair rails and the grillwork in the hall door.

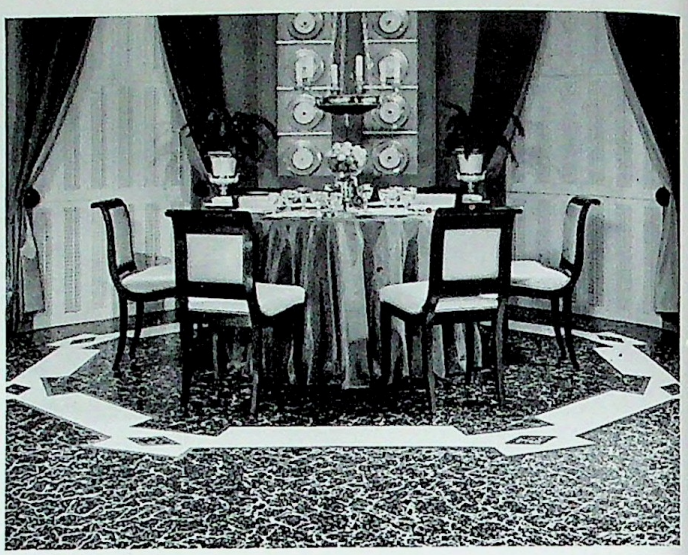
DINING BY THE SEA. This room borrows all the glamour of the sunset by blending gold and mauve. The over-all effect is rich and extravagant, but every detail in this seaside room is practical. The marbleized vinyl floor is moisture resistant and easy to care for. The king-sized antique doors are iron and have been painted desert rose to match the Empire chairs and pedestaled iron table. The upholstery is a modern plastic, indistinguishable from fabric. Although the room gives the effect of a terrace or a patio, it is a finished dining room with recessed cupboards on the right wall and an antique chest on the left. If your home is inland, a photomural can simulate a seaside view.

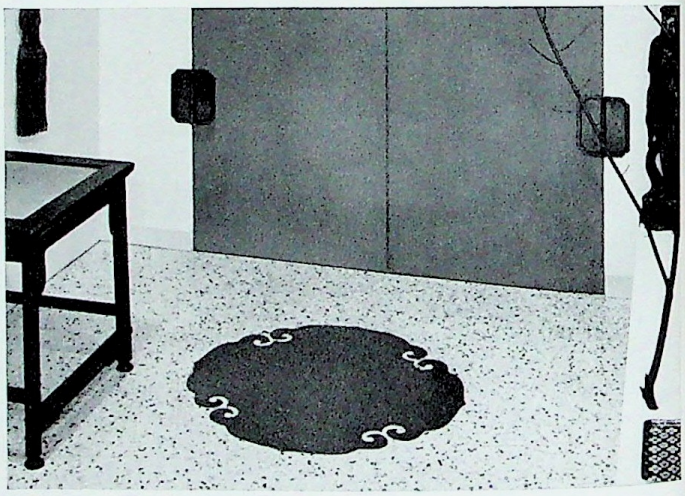
DRAMA IN FLOORS

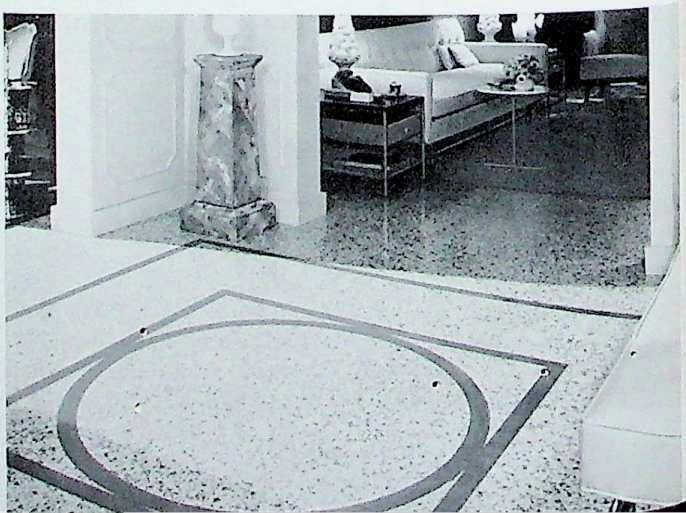
SMOOTH SURFACED FLOORS PROVIDE WONDERFUL DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES. They are used by decorators of every school because their maintenance is economical, and their effectiveness, whether simple or dramatic, is unchallenged. If furnishings are luxurious, then floors with the look of marble add palatial elegance. If furnishings are severely modern, floors like the new inlaid vinyl materials can introduce design and color that will warm and vitalize the whole room.

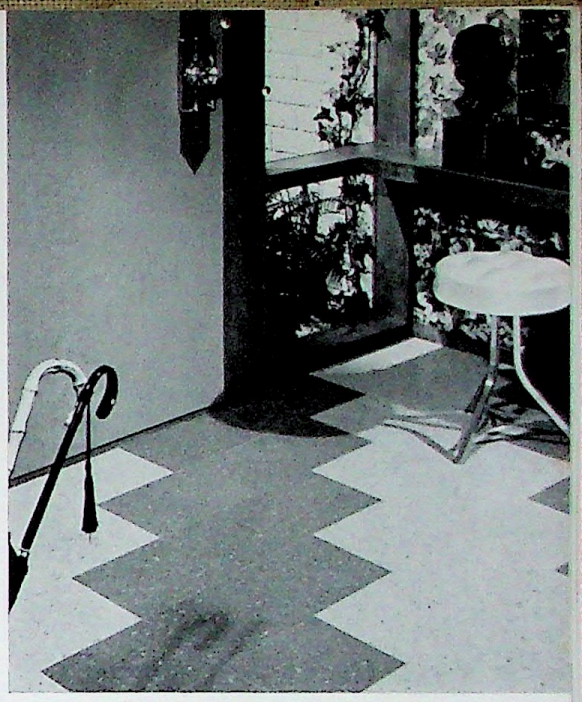
The use of insets is a great way of personalizing your home. Custom styled floors offer an unusual opportunity for self-expression and cost very little. Metal insets, because they look so glamorous, are often thought to be impractical; but in practice this is not true; normal foot traffic alone will keep them bright and untarnished.

Resilient floors, and there is a world to choose from, are a dominant factor in today's decorating. They can be as exotic as old-world mosaics. At the other extreme, they can look as austere and primitive as pine boards. The right flooring selection will do wonders to help you in furnishing a house. Floors are, in the most literal sense, the base of good decoration today.









FUNCTIONALLY DESIGNED KITCHENS

Today's kitchen combines the functionality of a short-order diner with the beauty of a living room and the congeniality of a family room. It is the heart of the house from which good humor and good health should emanate. No one hurries from the kitchen any more. It is a place to linger, where cooking is looked upon as a hobby rather than work. Architects and appliance manufacturers have lavished attention upon the kitchen. And while the cost may seem high, it is justified by the generous contribution the kitchen makes to good living.

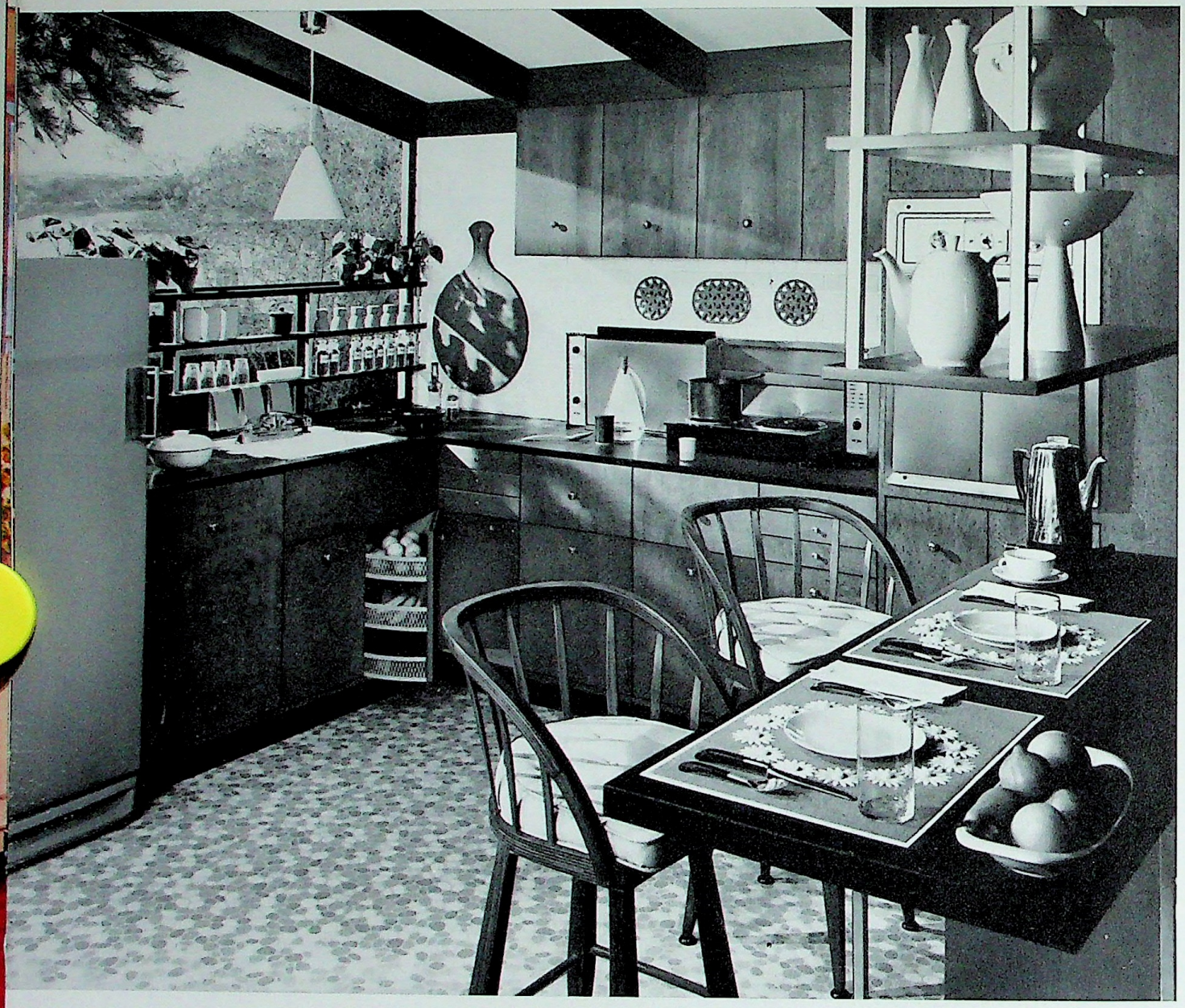
Today, because the cook is usually a member of the family, many kitchens open into the dining or living-room area. Thus the cook is no longer isolated from the rest of the household. Even more important, the kitchen walls and woodwork are a continuation of the wood paneling and beautiful colors of the adjoining rooms. At one time it was thought up-to-date and very continental to hang highly polished pots and pans on the kitchen wall for decoration. Today, fine old china and even oil paintings are used to add decorative interest in these newly glamorized quarters.

These changes, however, are not always in the direction of beauty. Modern floor plans are carefully worked out to control traffic and to save steps. Sinks as well as snack counters are installed close to the stove. Much of the spacious serenity of modern kitchens is achieved by unbroken lines . . . by counters and cabinets that run the length of an entire wall . . . by polished floorings that give an effect of space. These new composition floors are essential in today's kitchens, and they are made in such a variety of color and pattern that they will fit any decorating requirement. The pages that follow prove there are as many ways to have a beautiful and efficient kitchen as there are cooks to make use of them.

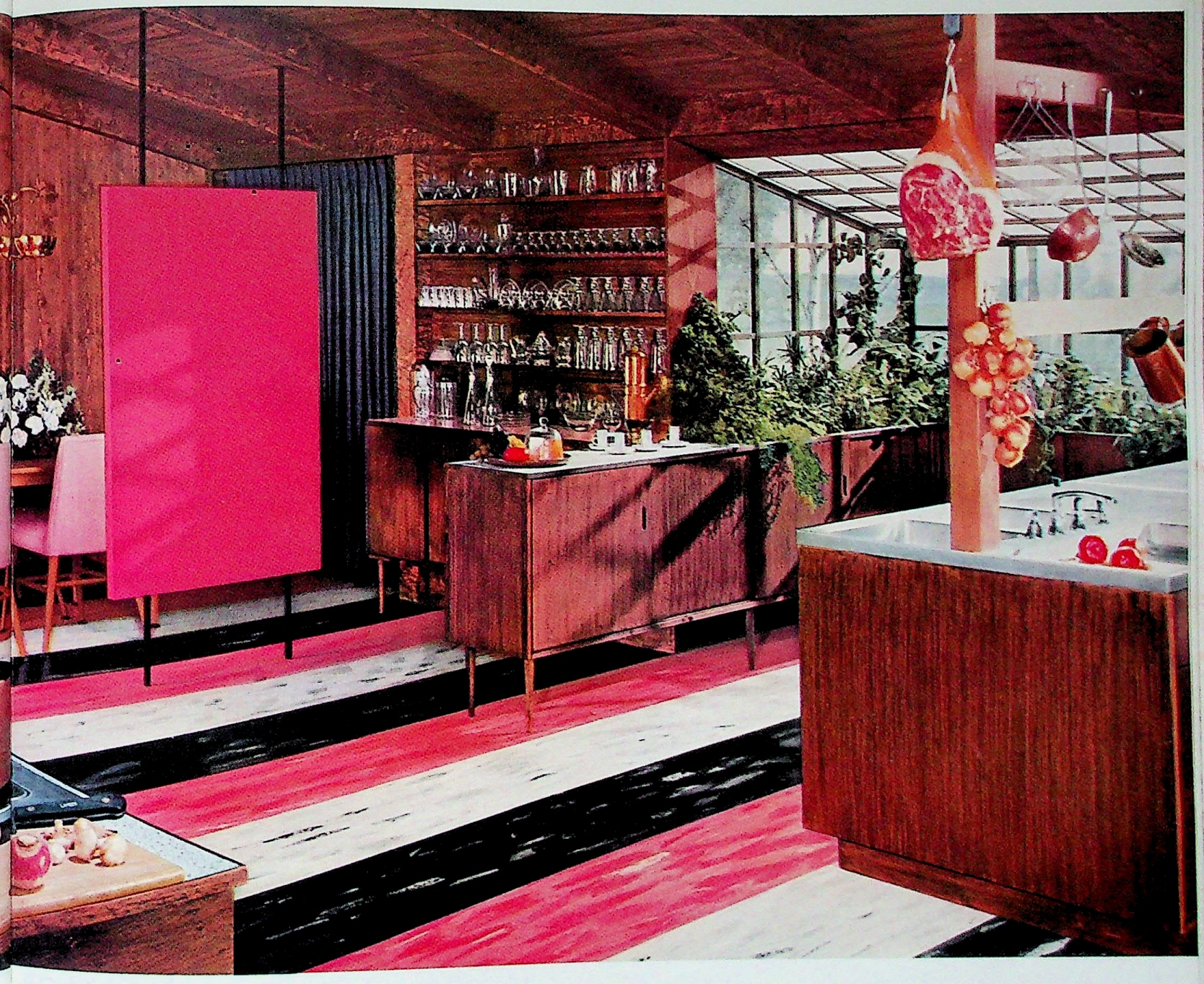
A STEP-SAVING COUNTER boldly built into the middle of the room made the greatest improvement in an old square kitchen where everything was backed up against the walls. All the work units, including the stove, the sink, and the dishwasher, are now part of the divider so that everything can be reached by merely turning around. It also divides the handy dining area in the window from the work area. What was once a wall with a small window is now the lovely picture window in the illustration. The color scheme started with the turquoise vinyl floor, and since the harmonizing wallpaper is washable, it was used to cover the sides of the counter and helped to unify as well as beautify the whole room.

WRAP-AROUND KITCHEN. The two walls that originally separated the dining room from the kitchen have been torn down and a real work counter installed in their place. Narrow louvered shutters fold back when required to turn the two rooms into one. The drawers in the cabinets open from both sides, and the pass-through counter saves countless steps. Other features include a built-in wall oven and refrigerator, and the use of two small apartment-sized ranges instead of one large single one. Ample light from the floor-to-ceiling window floods both rooms. The two areas are blended together with a color scheme of gray, white, and Bristol blue.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 176



COMPACT CONVENIENCE in a kitchen calls for careful planning. Here the biggest space-savers are the two range tops that fold back into the wall to give the cook ample counter space. A big oven is built into the wall. Wood paneling is always rich and warm, and here it furnishes a background that seems to absorb the chairs and snack table and make the kitchen seem roomier. There is plenty of storage space in this kitchen, too, and the open shelves by the window and over the table give the homemaker an opportunity to display colorful glassware and ceramics.



WHEN HERBS ARE A HOBBY a kitchen like this is heaven for the cook. The herb-raising area is actually a greenhouse built onto the end of the house. Here the light pours in, and guests and family can gather to watch the cook. The tavern character of this interior is achieved by the warm wood paneling, while the ultramodern effect is a matter of flooring—in this case, marbleized vinyl handled in dynamic stripes. Other features to note are the well placed screen divider that separates the dining area, and the clean, efficient look of the raised cabinets. At the right is a triple sink installed as an island so that it can be reached from either side.

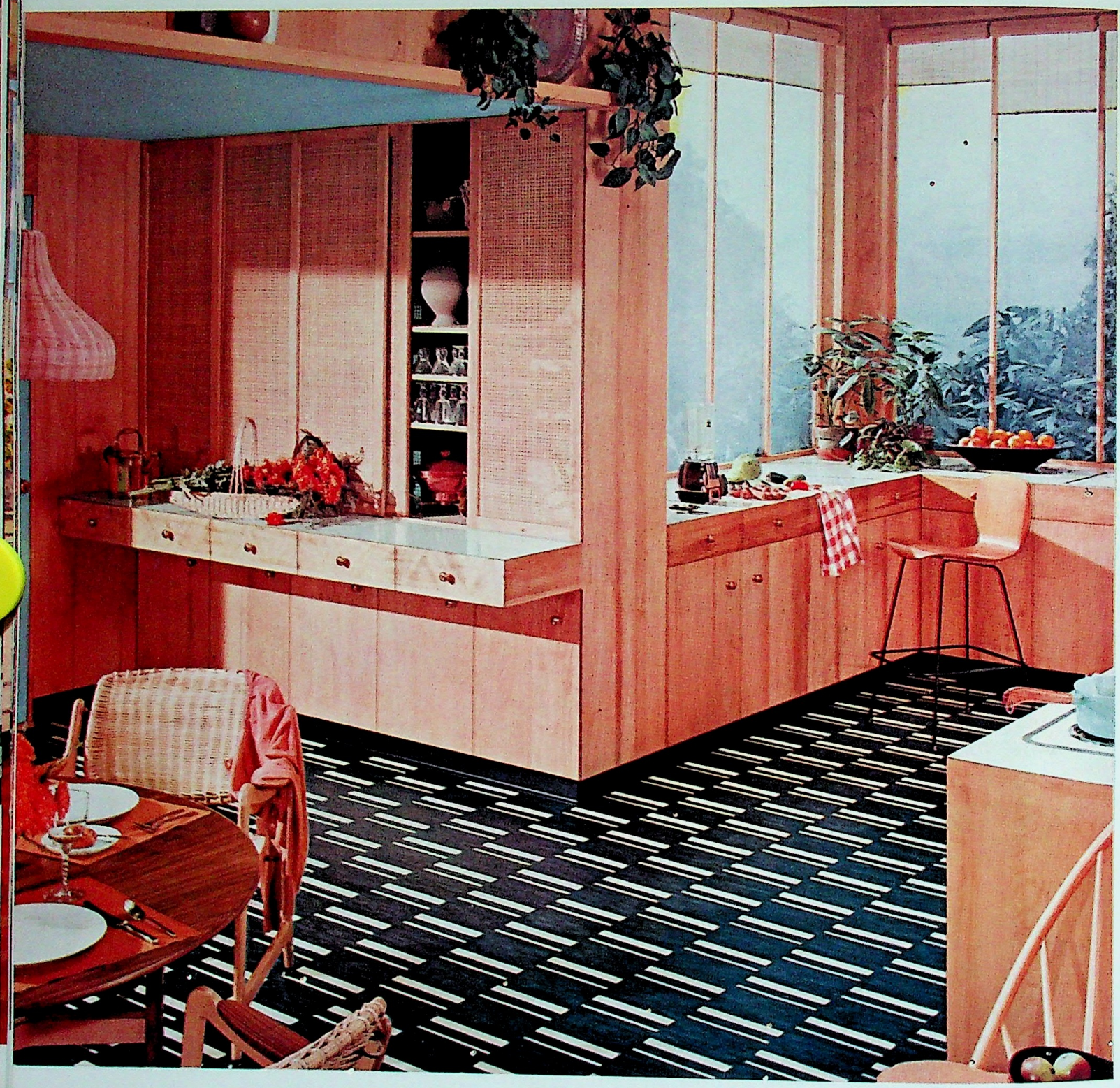
AN EARLY SHAKER KITCHEN (*opposite*) complete with a huge, glowing fireplace, wonderful old counter-arm chairs, and what appears to be a floor of broad pine boards! The success of this room has been achieved through a sensitive appreciation of our American past. All of the accessories, including the tole chandelier and the chairs, are reproductions of early originals. The complete kitchen unit which fits so beautifully under the windows has a woodtone finish to harmonize with the lovely old beams and woodwork. The floor is an embossed linoleum, easy to clean and to keep shining; the rug is a handwoven reproduction of an early hooked rug.

KITCHEN AND FAMILY ROOM There is a very complete kitchen beyond the dining area in this room. The warm wood paneling hides excellent cabinet space, and the old apothecary chest has drawers of every dimension for silver or what you will. The spread-eagle ornament marks the room as early American, but we've mixed the old with the new and hung pendant brass lights over the old pine table. We painted the Windsor settee black and faced it into the living area, but it can be easily turned for seating at the table. A prefab fireplace and hide-a-bed sofa add coziness to this combination room. Although it's a busy room every day of the week, it's a practical room that's easy to care for.

A DIAGONAL KITCHEN can do wonders in space saving. Here one corner of a square room was cut off for sink and counter space with windows on both sides that furnish the light for a triangle of herbs. Just to the right, in the picture, is the work unit—oven, range-top and counter set diagonally in the center of the room and acting as a divider for the dining area. This kitchen also houses a washing machine with a dryer, a lavatory, a reading area and space for a movie projector. All of these are well arranged, and you can see them in detail by referring to the specification pages at the back of the book.

Floor plan and wall elevation for this room, page 177

IN EARLY AMERICAN HOMES the kitchen fireplace was the center of family activity, especially at the end of the day when supper was preparing. This kitchen has a modern floor-level hearth, but the interesting old chest and the chopping-block table remind us of our American past. All the rest of the furniture and equipment in the kitchen is modern: the split-level stove is stainless steel; the washer-dryer fits snugly into the counter at the right of the gay red door. But the pine ceiling is stained to match the warm tones of the old chest, and the paneled wall around the fireplace is bleached to harmonize with the brick effect of the floor.



THE ELEGANCE OF CANE (*opposite*). Wood paneling and cane, both of the same blond tone, give this kitchen-dining room its unusual elegance. A dropped ceiling makes the dining area a room by itself. (It also hides any overhead wiring and ventilation.) The long narrow windows above the sink do full justice to the wonderful view, and the matchstick blinds are an extension of the clean simple lines of the entire room. The airiness of the coloring and the window space demand a flooring with weight: hence the impressive black-and-white inlaid linoleum. A complete kitchen unit, stove, refrigerator, etc., flanks the wall at the right.

TURRET INTO KITCHEN The problems that a circular wall presents can be resolved, and the results can sometimes be a brilliant success. In this case a counter with bins was hung in the center of the floor-to-ceiling windows, and finished with a graceful cantilevered shelf that doubles as a desk with telephone space. Next, a stove was found with a range top that slides back and forth like a bureau drawer. The white strips in the vinyl floor were inlaid to emphasize the shape of the room and to mark the perfect spot for the pedestal table and chairs. The color scheme was keyed to an almost neutral red and white to counterbalance the audacious curves of the room itself.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 178

A GARAGE ADDITION. This is always an easy conversion because the foundation, walls and roof of the new room are already there. A floor-to-ceiling window replaces the garage doors. The warm wood paneling of the kitchen harmonizes with the slanting beamed ceiling of the old garage. The sand colored flooring adds brightness and brings together the two sections of the new area. The gay yellow accessories also contribute. The two-way shelving under the counter that divides the kitchen from the dining room is an important feature. The fence at the kitchen step slides closed to keep small children where they belong.

A PORCH WHICH OPENED off the kitchen and which was used for only part of the year provided the space needed for this complete family room. The kitchen wall was taken down, the porch was enclosed, and the result was a colorful play space where Mother could watch the children while she worked. The windows at either end of the kitchen area and the Dutch door provided ample light and ventilation. Careful planning ensured room for everything required—a play table, a snack counter, a television set, and a sewing machine. The warm tone of the walls and floor added spaciousness and serenity.

HERE IS A KITCHEN designed and built for a woman who wanted to sit down while she worked. This was accomplished by making a work center out of a double sink and dishwashing unit so placed that when she worked she did not have her back to the rest of the room. Other conveniences were a diagonally built-in refrigerator and freezing unit, a rotisserie stove with a range top beside it and plenty of counter space. The cabinetwork should not be overlooked, especially the triangular cabinets on each side of the recessed window and the sliding doors on the shelves under the counters. Last but not least is the unusual color scheme—natural wood paneling and gleaming stainless steel accented with rich purples and black—which makes this kitchen not only a beautiful room but a miracle of quiet convenience.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 179

MIXED-COLOR KITCHEN. Some women seem to feel that if they have bought their refrigerator in a particular shade of color they must buy all the rest of their kitchen equipment in the same shade. This kitchen shows that colors can be mixed with striking effect. All the major appliances and the television set are built into the paneled wall, and the cooking unit is part of an island counter that saves countless steps. In this room the window wall is designed for work and enjoyment of the view. There are desk space, a sink, and a counter that extends the full length of the room. The dining area is divided from the rest of the room by the inlaid lines of the floor.

A BIRTHDAY-PARTY ROOM. This tiny alcove off the kitchen is so small that it must be gay, gay in color and furnishing. Even the white wicker drop-lamp has a French-pastry look that suggests parties. There is no better way to conserve space than to use a pedestal table; this one is iron, painted white, with a marble top. Look-through chairs never crowd a room. These are almost, but not quite, ice-cream parlor styling; the chintz covering on the seats can be changed with the seasons. In contrast, the corner cabinets are strictly practical and so is the soft-toned floor, which is a continuation of the foyer floor beyond.

A BRIDE IN A CAGE. This tiny kitchen is definitely for a bride with a sense of humor. Small it is, but it is also gay and as light as all outdoors. The wired walls and scalloped molding give the effect of a cheerful aviary whose owner would be tempted to sing while she worked. The red cardinals and the dark counter and floor make a wonderful contrast to the white of the rest of the room. The light fixture is a final piece of whimsy emphasized by the green of the philodendron.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 180

A POLKA-DOT KITCHEN. The gay polka-dot floor was the original inspiration for this scheme in blue and white. Decorated for a June bride, the room spells happiness and high spirits. Economy was a first requisite: accordingly the divider was made from unpainted chests extending from floor to ceiling. The hanging wall cabinets in the kitchen were also unpainted units. The lacy metal screens proved wonderfully effective. They separated the dining area from the work center without giving any impression of crowding. By painting everything white, including the rattan chairs, and keeping all the walls the same shade of blue, this average sized room was given an airy gaiety in complete harmony with its two young occupants. Its gay atmosphere will maintain the spirit of the honeymoon—even in modest surroundings.

BARBECUES—CENTERS OF INTEREST

Once you find a good place to set up an indoor barbecue you are on your way to built-in fun for family and friends the year 'round. These pages illustrate some of the many ways you can plan this center of interest—from a glamorous charcoal grill arrangement to an ultra modern electric rotisserie. Whichever method you choose, be sure you have ample ventilation, including a hood and chimney flue, to take care of fumes and smoke.

Below you see an add-on room that has been screened and glassed to provide an exotic recreation area. The barbecue is built in an old Spanish table with a brazier in the middle which was used originally for room heating. The fan-ventilated chimney was easily funneled through the flat roof. The mobile chests hold all kinds of sports equipment as well as charcoal for the barbecue. They are upholstered for comfortable seating. In spite of its rich appearance, this room is practical. The colorful upholstery is splash-proofed cotton and the floor a serviceable vinyl.

1. *A charcoal pit set into a bricked wall space and entirely apart from the fireplace.*
2. *This brick barbecue and chimney is located in a breezeway between the house and garage and can be used all year.*
3. *A counter top rotisserie that operates electrically has a handsome funnel chimney.*
4. *This is a combination fireplace and barbecue grill built in the center of a room.*

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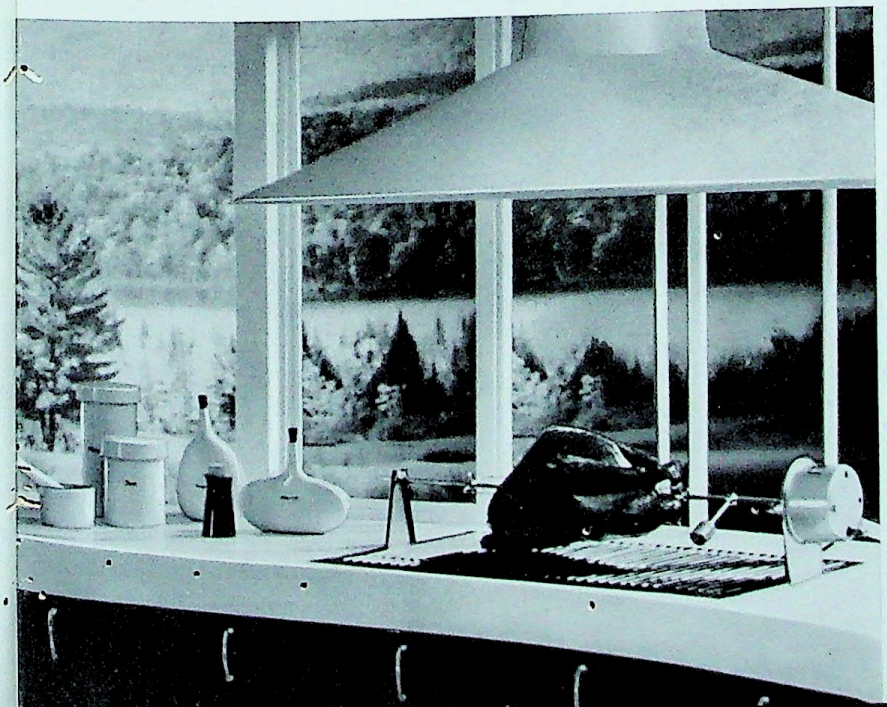

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PERSONALITY IN BEDROOMS

More than any other room in the house, your bedroom should be exactly the way you want it. Even in this age of family living, your bedroom is still a private place, where no one's wishes but your own need to be consulted and where you are free to indulge your personal tastes in color and furniture arrangement. The illustrations in this section should give you any number of ideas to gratify your preferences and combine them with beauty and good taste. By adding a room divider, by using screens adroitly, by throwing all the old rules for furniture arrangement out of the window, a bedroom can acquire space and unexpected charm. A bedroom is primarily a place for rest and sleep. It should also be a good place to read and write. The lighting should be flattering as well as functional. Your bedroom should be a haven where you can take down your hair literally and luxuriously.

Even children's bedrooms and guest rooms of which you will find a number in the pages that follow should be more than just a place to sleep. Sharing should not mean crowding. But privacy and room to study or rest are not always easy to obtain for a growing family in today's house. Each of the illustrations is a concrete example of how a problem in interior decorating was solved. The ideas are basic and can be adapted to your own situation; the furniture and accessories are easy to obtain and are in no case beyond the means of the average budget.

EASTERN BUT FUNCTIONAL *(opposite)*. This bedroom-lounge is a perfect example of the highly personalized sleeping quarters we spoke of in our introduction. The elaborately carved East Indian sofa and the richly embroidered spread were the prized possessions of the owner, and the decorating scheme was built around them. The split-level construction of the room effectively separates the lounge or reading area in the upper space from the bed two steps down. The walnut beams acted as a room divider and suggested a canopy top for the bed. This idea was carried further by the walnut paneling on the wall behind the headboard. Beyond the bed an L-shaped arrangement of chests provides plenty of drawer space and a comfortable dressing table or desk. The light, as it should be, is directly overhead.

A LIVING ROOM—BEDROOM. The problem in this case was a house with only one living room, where the parents needed a place to read and relax when the downstairs was full of teen-agers. The chimney wall that ran up from the fireplace below was opened, a new fireplace was installed, and comfortable chairs were grouped on either side. The bay window wall—which before had been wasted space—was turned into a dressing room area. White chests against the white floor-length draperies were most effective, and the huge window provided wonderful lighting for the dressing table. A soft yellow rug on the black and white floor centered the grouping 'round the fireplace, and floor and rug made a dramatic contrast and provided a sunny spring-like setting for the gay four-posted bed with its quilted spread.

FROM GARAGE TO BEDROOM. Remodeling an attached garage is one of today's easiest and least expensive ways of adding a bedroom to your house. There are colorful floors to cover up the concrete, attractive acoustical ceilings to cover exposed rafters, and many handsome materials to finish off the walls. In this instance the woodtones in the vinyl flooring give a warmth that is repeated in the coral accessories. The headboard for the twin beds includes a decorative switchboard panel; the black woodwork matches the sturdy chests at either end. The blank wall between the beds and the ceiling windows is relieved by a series of wall plaques. Gaily printed draperies and a harmonizing area rug lend a note of luxury.

BRASS FOR A BEDROOM. The king-sized brass headboard is the keynote for this decor. The brass motif is repeated in the dressing table, the end tables and the lights—all classic examples of brass in modern furniture—and carried further in the diamond insets in the floor. The luxurious blue velvet of the upholstery offers a striking contrast to the gleaming metal. The glamorous bedspread, which looks like silk but is actually cotton, furnishes the expanse of white necessary to balance the long white curtains. The dressing table was set against the curtains to make good use of the window wall and to make the most of the lovely light which filters through.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A SCREEN. There is no rule which says that a bed must be backed up against a wall. Here a floor-to-ceiling screen cuts off a pleasant lounge area and acts as a headboard. It serves these two purposes without sacrificing either light or ventilation. The dressing table or desk as well as the end tables for the bed are cantilevered from the screen and supply plenty of surface space for books and ornaments. The pendant brass lights are especially effective; they can be adjusted to any height desired. The neutral shade of the floor, the beige curtains, and the soft walls are a wonderful background to the dark tones of the furniture. The lively kelly green of the upholstery and bedspread adds a note of gaiety.

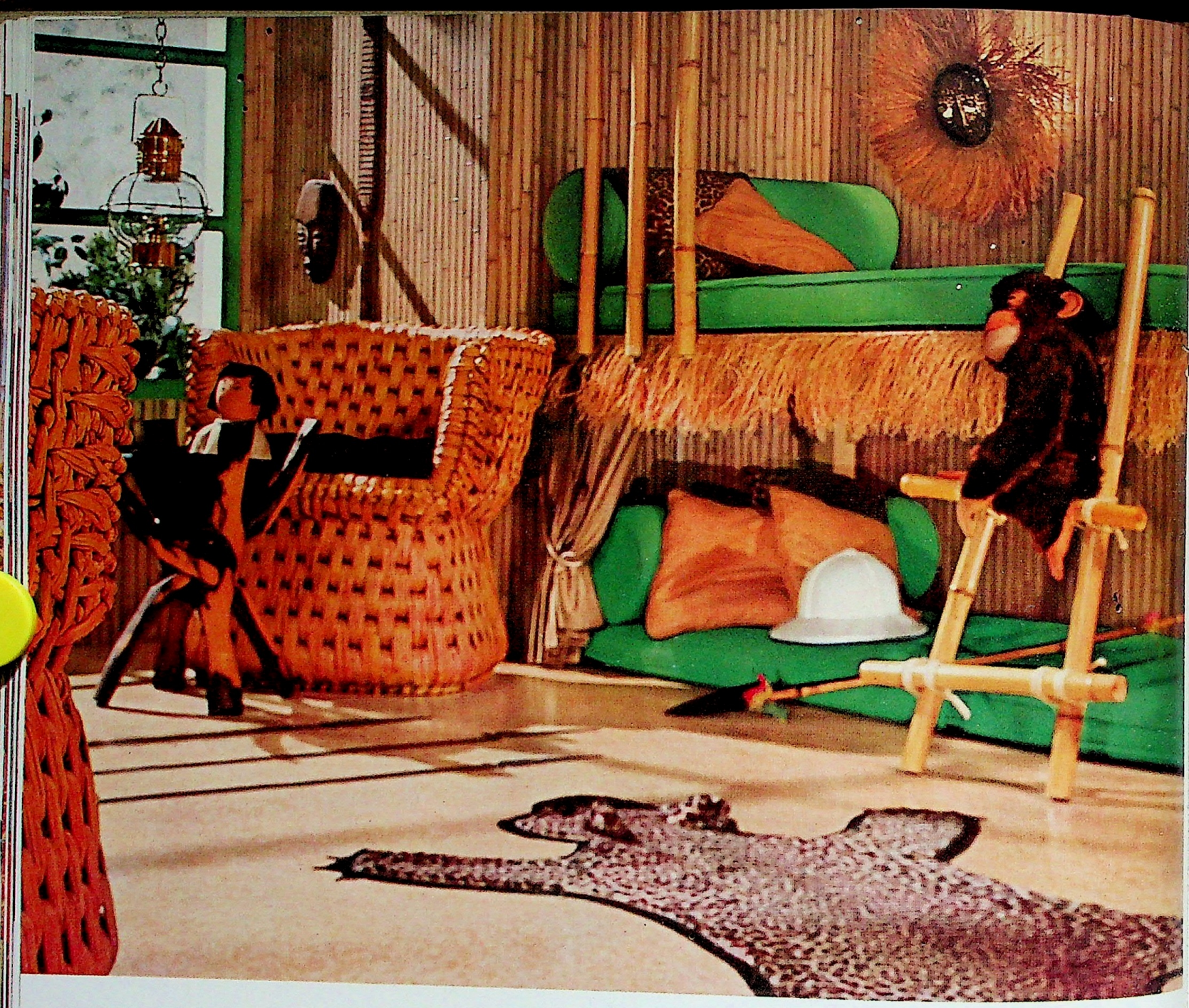
WALL SPACE FOR A YOUNG LADY *(opposite)*. At first glance this bedroom seemed to be all windows and doors, and even after the right place for the bed was found, there still was no room for a chest big enough to hold a young girl's possessions. So a wall was built at the end of the bed, and the whole room furnished in French provincial. The problem of unifying the room was solved by joining the scalloped window valances to the valance around the bed. The resulting alcove was snug and luxurious. The pattern of the fine batiste window curtains was repeated on the hand-painted apron that shows below the spread. The apron also hides some wonderful storage drawers built beneath the bed. All of the accessories are delicately feminine.

Floor plan and wall elevations for room opposite, page 181

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 182

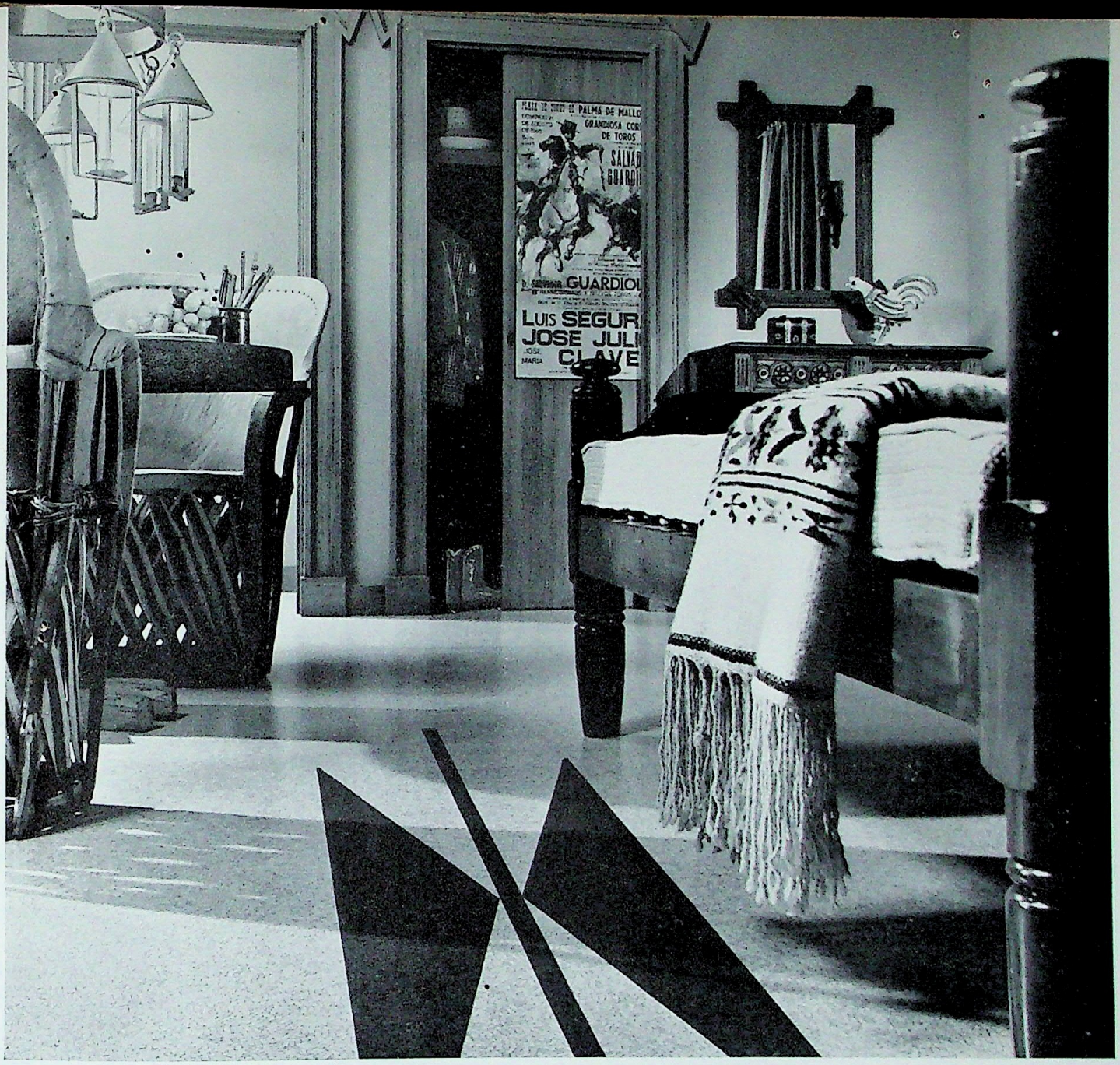
PINK FOR A LITTLE GIRL *(opposite)*. Imagination is the prime ingredient in a bedroom like this. A great deal of the charm is from the do-it-yourself details such as the draped bedspread and the dainty silk fringe on the sheer curtains. The spread is chintz and its flowers are repeated on the canopy above the bed. The dust ruffle is embroidered organdie. Originally the room had two small closets; one of these was turned into a handy dressing table niche, and the reverse sides of the doors were decorated to match the bedspread. This niche can be easily shut off, if the small occupant is not quite so tidy as she should be.

SHARING A BEDROOM. Can two little girls of different ages share the same bedroom and still be private? Here is one idea of how it can be done. Two unique room dividers built like folding screens were used to give each occupant the space and privacy she needed. To be sure that both had ample storage room, a chest was built under the window and shelf space introduced into the wall over the dressing table at the right. The room had to be bright and airy, so the background was kept light, light wicker furniture was chosen, and the floor was lightly spattered with gay colors.



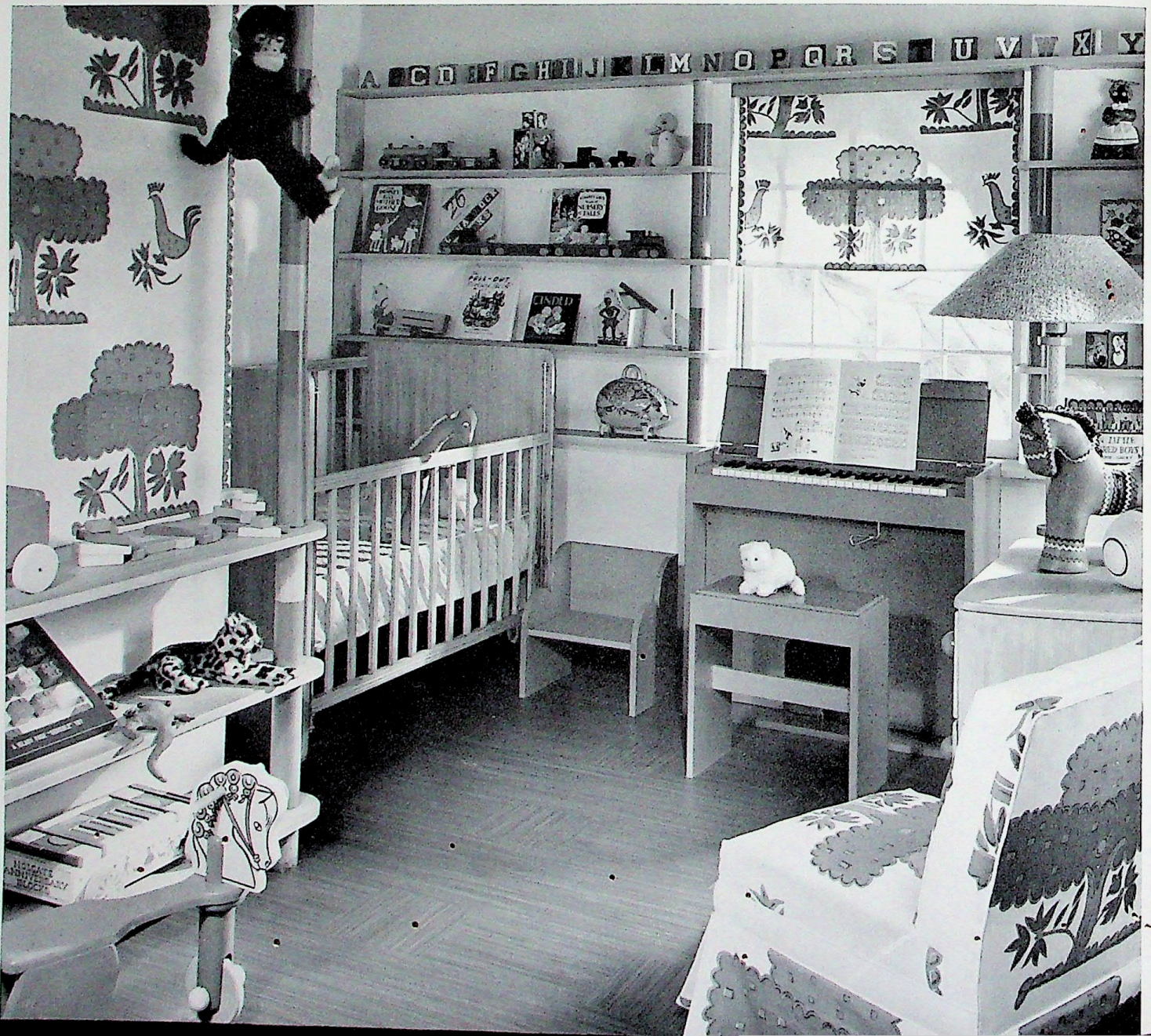
Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 183

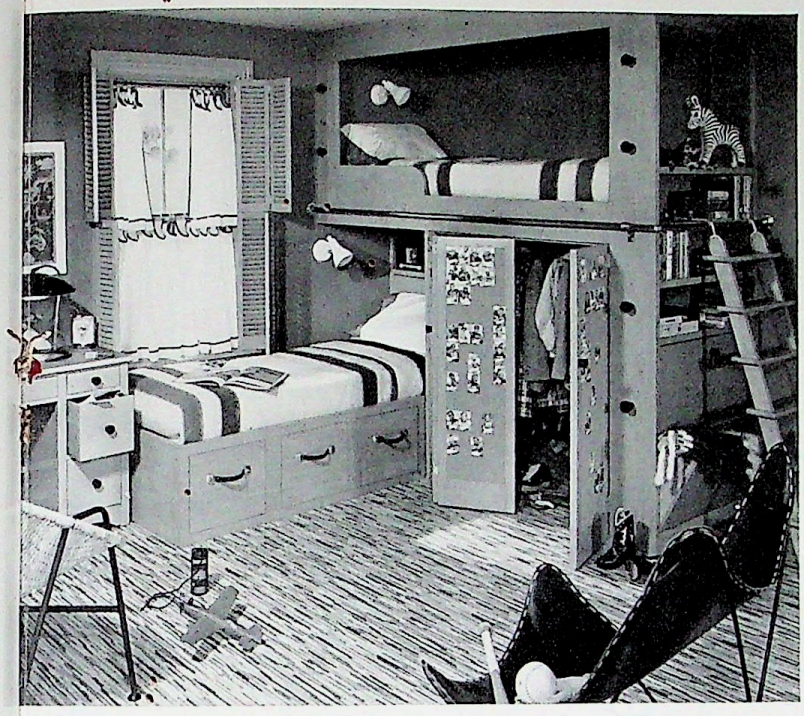
TWO LITTLE SAVAGES. Any pair of small boys with a burning desire to hunt big game in Africa will find this room a satisfactory substitute. And from a mother's point of view the floor of warm desert sand is perfect for quick cleaning. All of the furniture from the bamboo ladder to the big basket chairs can be moved and dusted in a minimum of time. The only concessions to the young men's comfort are the bunk beds of oasis green and the black stuffed cushions in the chairs. The walls are covered with what looks like bamboo, but is in fact wallpaper.



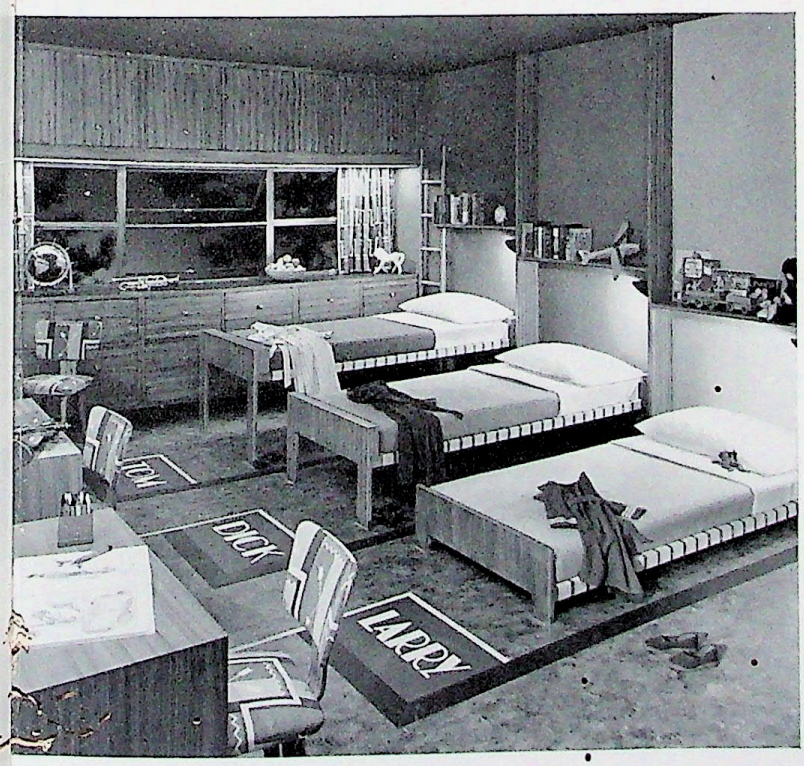
SPANISH AND SPARTAN. This bedroom is for a boy who likes to rough it or for an adult who likes to be reminded of his travels. The old Spanish bed has rope for springs, and a bed board makes a firm foundation for the neatly upholstered foam mattress. The chairs beside the sturdy round table are Mexican, hand-hewn with stretched pigskin upholstery. A bull fight poster on the sliding door of the closet needs no frame and gives just the right touch of color to the end of the room. The striking floor design is copied from the serape on the bed.

MONKEY ON A STICK. Two very small young ladies indeed were to be the occupants of this room, and the problem was where to put their one million animals so that they could be seen but still be out of the way. Their mother had decreed that only one animal at a time might be played with, and the shelves built against the window wall and almost everywhere else in the room enabled the two little girls to choose the toy they wanted and still be able to talk to their other animal friends. The floor of smooth vinyl is perfect for the wheels of a wooden horse and absurdly easy to keep clean. The gay fabric of the slip covers is repeated on the window shade and the wall.





ROOM MAKING FOR BOYS. If three small boys are to share one bedroom, the first thing to do is to find a good carpenter or cabinet-maker and have him build in what is needed. Remember that boys cannot have too much storage space. On the left a bunk bed has been built over the closet space, and a pullman bed complete with ladder makes going to bed exciting. The pictures below show two other arrangements; the names inlaid in the floor were a trifle extravagant but kept each young man strictly within his own bounds. Walnut colored vinyl for counters and desks is as handsome as wood itself, is easier to clean and is almost indestructible.



ADD A ONE-ROOM APARTMENT. Unused attic space can often be converted into an ideal spot for a one-room apartment available for visiting parents, a married daughter, or casual guests. Here a fireplace made by opening up the chimney gave the room the cozy look the attic needed, and the effect was enhanced by the warm wood tones of the flooring. Skylight windows cut in the ceiling gave ample sun and air to a dark windowless corner. Behind the paneled partition a small kitchen and bath finished off the apartment.

BREAKTHROUGH FOR SPACE (*opposite*). Knock out a wall or raise the roof line to relieve cramped living quarters. This is a wonderful example of the practicality of such add-on space. The new wall section was given a wainscot finish, and the old walls were paneled and fitted out with shelves for magazines and books. Both the old and new areas of the room were unified with a handsomely designed floor, and decorative ceiling tiles softened the over-all effect without the use of draperies.

LIFE

TREETOP HIDEAWAY (*opposite*). The problem here was the chimney that ran right through the center of the room. But when it was painted white, and the two daybeds set against it at right angles and a low coffee table introduced, the result was a handsome and strikingly different arrangement. One end of the room was opened up into a floor-to-ceiling window and the stove added for warmth and coziness. A wall of book shelves and chests under the eaves made this neglected attic a complete, comfortable apartment.

A VIRTUE OF NECESSITY. In this room a low ceiling has been utilized to advantage. A chest of drawers and a desk were built beneath it and then latticed off to make a delightful nook for the bed. But the principal reason why this small room under the eaves looks roomy and inviting is the use of light, bright colors for the decorating scheme. In this case a bright citron was chosen, to accent the white woodwork. The gay floral print and the golden floor carry the scheme into the adjoining bathroom.

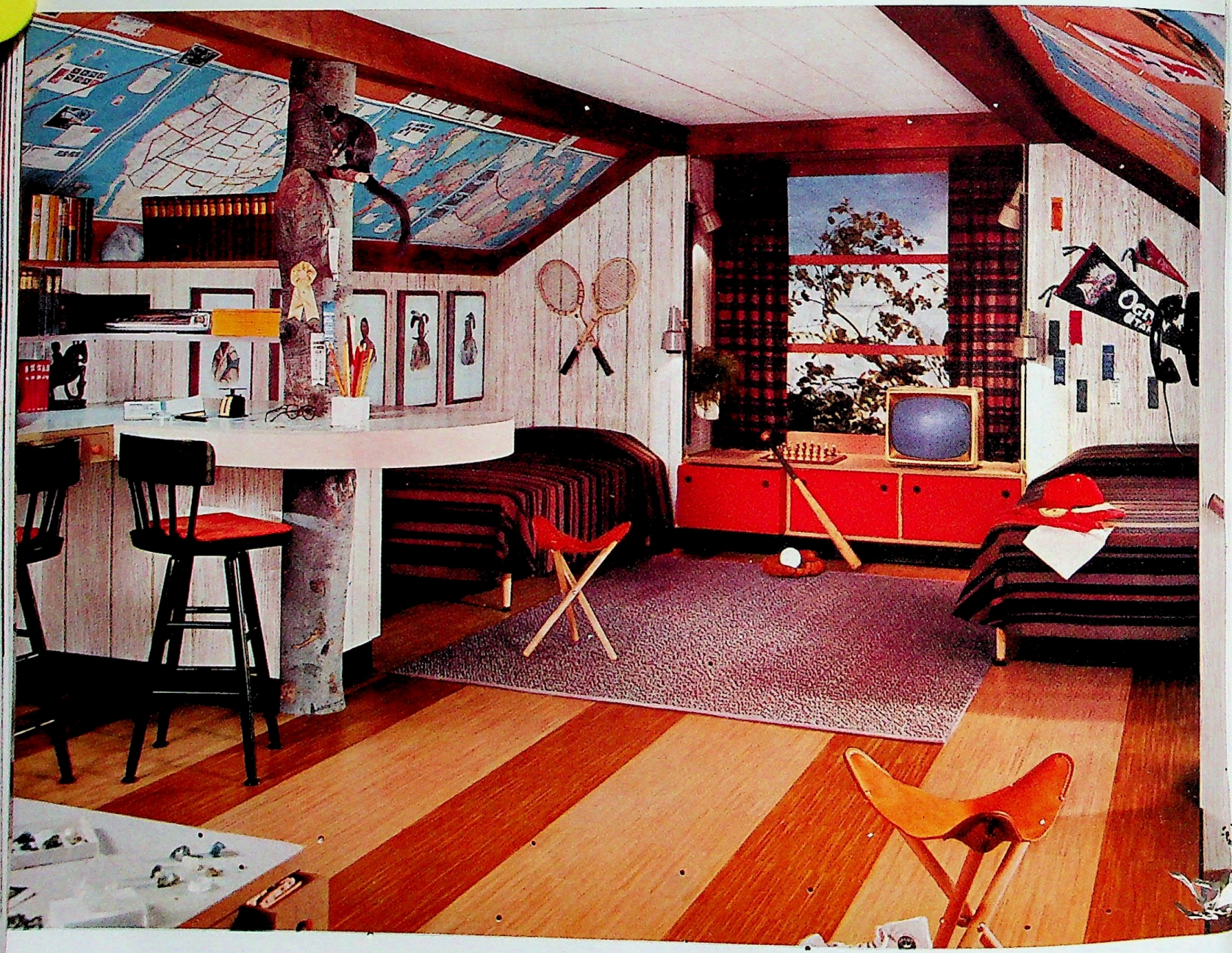
LUXURY AND PRIVACY. An unfinished attic can be the foundation for a severely simple but luxurious living room. Here two-by-fours were used to make a handsome beamed ceiling, with the effect repeated in the strips inlaid in the vinyl floor. The acoustical ceiling and the matching wall board were painted in the same warm gray to give space and unity. The fireplace with its smart black hood is a variation of a Franklin stove. Comfortable tweed-covered sofa beds flank the hearth, and modern Danish chairs add character. The window shade is of striped denim.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 184

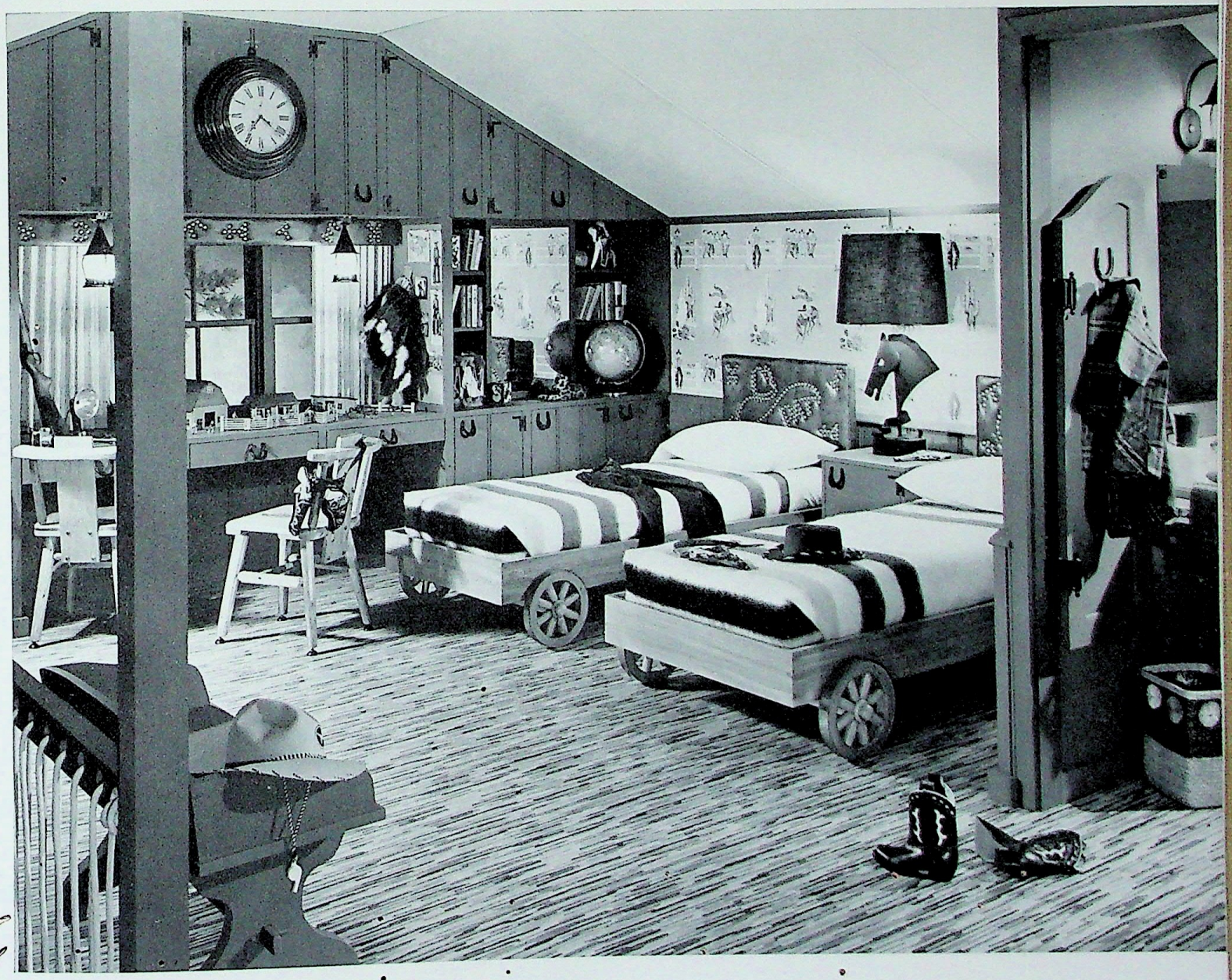
TREE HOUSE BEDROOM. This attic room was planned for two boys who loved the out-of-doors. The result is a bedroom that is different and exciting. First the large picture window was built into the outside wall and the interior paneled with stained wood. The trees, complete with artificial leaves, were perhaps a little elaborate as lamp stands, but they made a tremendous hit with the younger set. The side walls were devoted entirely to the kind of shelves and cupboard space that teen-agers require. The movie projector on the big study table sits opposite its screen hung from the bookshelves.

ATTIC HOBBY ROOM. For economy and utility this room would be hard to beat. The only major alteration was the installation of the large casement window. The walls are papered with colorful maps, and framed prints of real Indians hang over the beds. The ceiling is acoustical, and the furniture consists of two chairs, two beds, and the two filing cabinets in the left foreground. The tree trunk makes an admirable center for the sturdy circular work table and adds just the right note to the rustic interior.

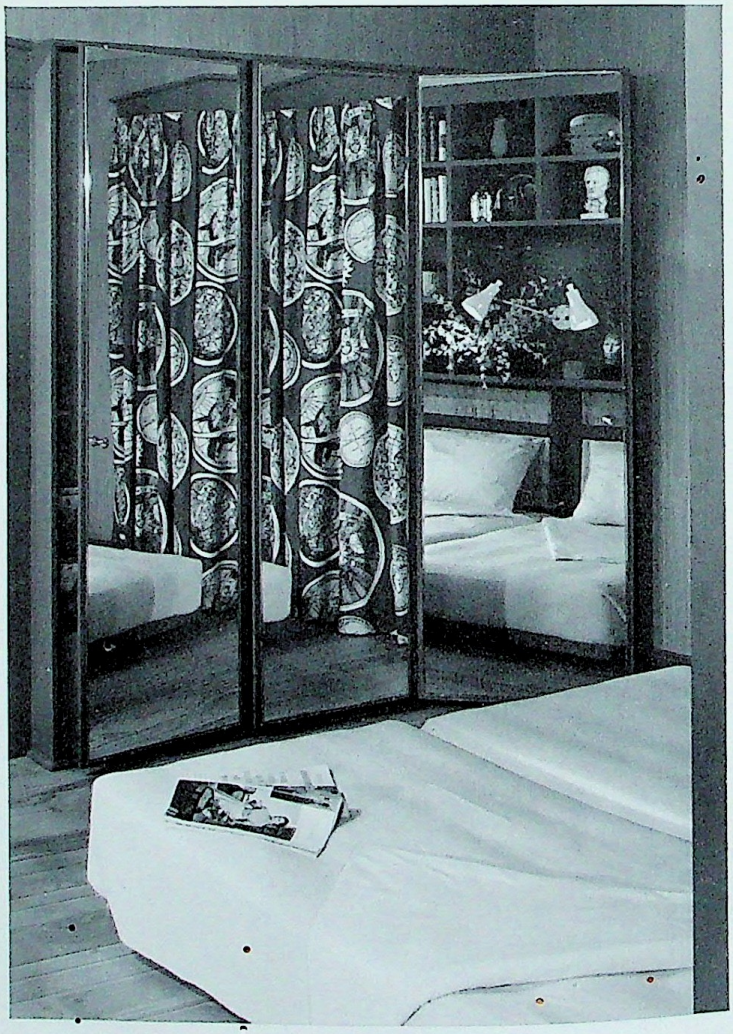
Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 185



BUNKHOUSE UNDER THE EAVES. Two small boys who had spent a summer on a dude ranch wanted a bunkhouse of their own under the eaves when they came home. So their parents made this room for them where everything was inexpensive but fun to do. The wheels on the beds turned them into camp wagons. The pattern of the blankets is authentic Western. Horseshoes for drawer handles and swinging doors into the bathroom are Western, too. The counter under the window made homework easy, especially with lanterns for lighting.



MEMORIES OF HAITI (*opposite*). Fond memories of an exotic island inspired this highly individual interior. Its owner wanted a place all to himself, where he could arrange his souvenirs and where he could relax in his ornate hammock. Match stick screening in the skylight over the window gave him a pleasantly native feeling. The rattan furniture and the vintage walls added to his mellow nostalgia.



DEN TO SEWING CENTER. The transition is easy if you study the illustrations. The wall next to the bathroom door, at the left of the picture, has been built out to provide plenty of shelf space, and the three doors which swing out have been mirrored from top to bottom. Open the front mirror and a sewing table swings down into place; open the right mirror and the dressmaker can see herself at any angle. Notice how the tweed covered ottomans (above) which are really hide-away beds unfold (at right) into the comfortable sleeping space you see reflected in the mirror.

GLAMOROUS BATHROOMS

Next to the living room or recreation room in your home the area most likely to be seen by guests is the bathroom. More than any other room, therefore, except the living room, your bathroom should reflect your fastidiousness, your color sense, and the pride, as owner, that you take in your house. Your bathroom, whether brand-new or remodeled, should be an assemblage of the new materials that manufacturers offer today—wallpapers that wash, plastics that look like silk, composition floors and counter tops as rich as marble, less expensive and far easier to keep clean than the old materials.

In the modern bathroom we have reintroduced an earlier European idea that the tub and dressing-room space should be separate from the toilet. The old ugly washbasin is gone forever; counter space around it and cabinets underneath have made it not only functional but elegant. Finally, sliding doors, as easy to open and close as conventional ones, guarantee a maximum of space.

The following pages show ten interesting examples. If you do not adopt any one of them completely, you should find in each illustration exciting possibilities adaptable to your personal problems or designs. Most of the bathrooms are built around a central color theme that harmonizes with the adjacent rooms. The details, too, have been chosen to match the furnishings and personality of the rest of the house. As you look over these ideas for bathrooms, keep in mind the fact that they can be applied to powder rooms as well. Best of all, if your home is an older one *without* a powder room, the color schemes and furnishings shown here can be used to make even the family's one-and-only bathroom a showplace you'll be proud for guests to see.

SCREENS INSTEAD OF WALLS *(opposite)*. This open dressing room and bath typify the desire for spaciousness so important in today's living. The effect is dramatic, yet the furnishings are inexpensive and easily obtainable. The sunken tub is faced with ceramic tiles. The floor-to-ceiling mirror on the left conceals the toilet. The red lattice screens came originally from the garden. The rattan chair has been painted black to match the low upholstered stool. There are two washbasins on the cantilevered shelf; and the glass in the huge awning window has been frosted for privacy. The dressing-table surface matches the marbleized vinyl floor for unity and additional beauty.

A DOUBLE BATHROOM. The picture shows only one half of this double bathroom. For economy's sake the toilets and the washbasins were set back to back against the dividing wall which holds the medicine cabinet. The folding plastic door shown on the right cuts off the lavatory from the bathroom itself, and a second folding door shuts off the bath on the right-hand wall (not shown in the picture). Everything in this double bathroom is elegant but highly serviceable. The walls and counter tops are of a new vinyl plastic, with a virtually seamless surface, and are a joy to keep clean. With vinyl's protection on almost every surface, including the floor, splashing is no problem here.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 186

A NEW PLACE FOR A BATHTUB. A symphony in green and blue, as inviting to splash in as the sea itself! In this spacious dressing-room-bathroom the tub has been set at right angles to the main wall so as to create two separate dressing rooms. The one shown in the illustration has a dressing table flooded with light from the lovely wall-to-wall window for the lady of the house. The one on the right (not shown in the picture) has a counter and a generous chest of drawers designed especially for her fortunate spouse. For the color scheme we used a rubber tile floor in blue and green to frame the tub and carried the same two colors right up the wall behind the shower. One advantage of a two-color scheme like this is that your present supply of linen and towels is twice as likely to fit in.

BATHROOM WITH A SUN DECK. A glassed-in sun deck as an extension of your bathroom makes a wonderful place to start your sun-tanning early. This bathroom has other things to recommend it. For instance, the counter cabinets carry two washbasins, one for guests and the larger one for the regular occupants. The pleasant paneled look of the cabinets is a skillful paint job, and the backs of the cabinet doors are mirrored. The overall note is gaiety and sunshine achieved by a color scheme of sand and sea. This is carried further in the lively decorating of the frosted plastic wall, dividing the tub from the toilet. Recessed lighting and the simple but comfortable dressing table with telephone and built-in radio cabinet add an extra touch of luxury.

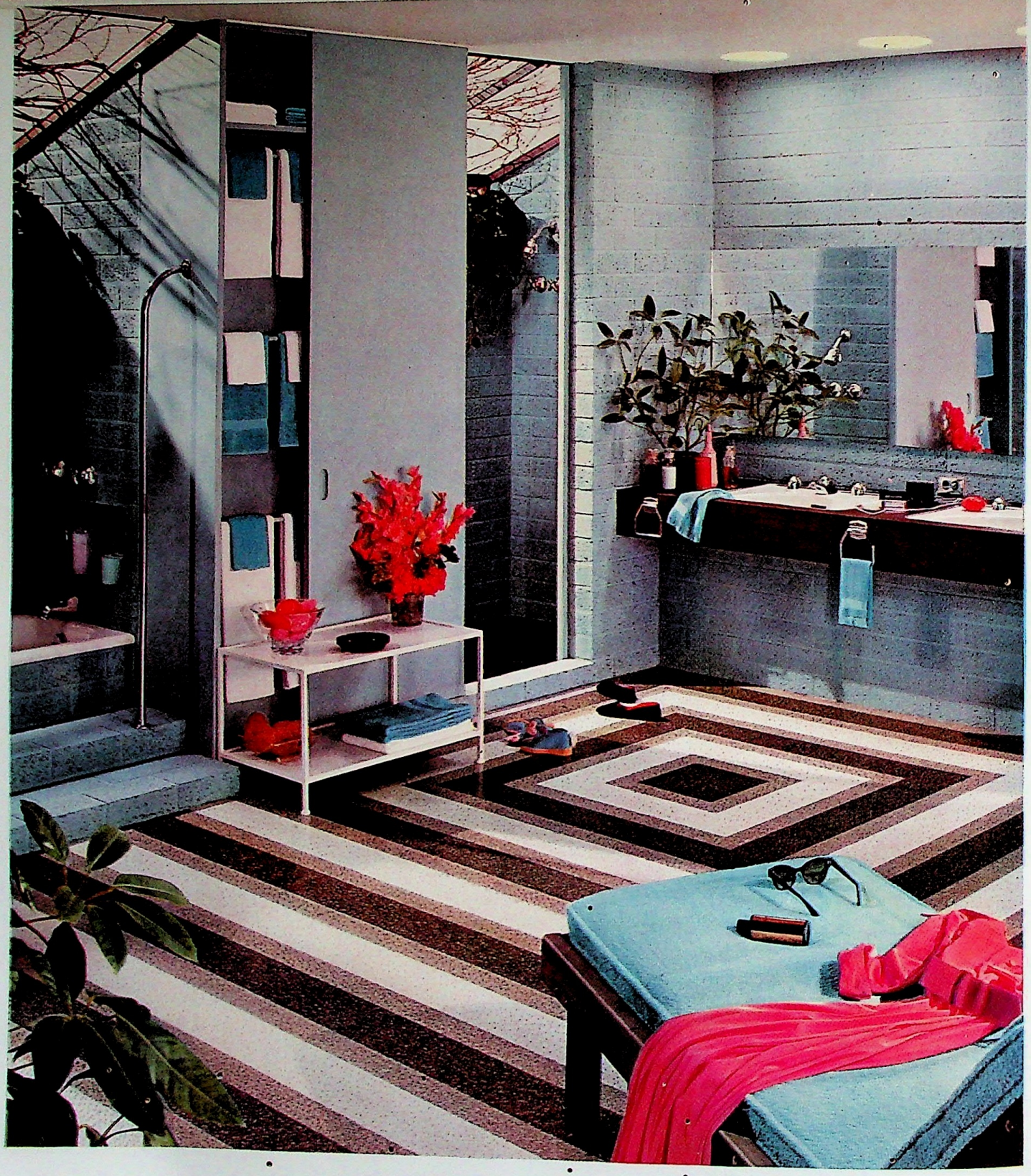
WINDOWS IN SWEDEN *(opposite)*. What a joy to have lots of light, lots of privacy and no need to worry about curtains! This is what skylight windows do for you. In this lovely Swedish motif the white fixtures and walls sparkle in contrast to the dark woodwork and paneling. Yet everything in the room, except perhaps the exotic lavender accents, is strictly functional. The bathtub arrangement gives Mother a place to sit while bathing youngsters. The end shelf provides a place for toiletries or decorative accessories; the luxurious wallpaper panel at the right is waterproof.

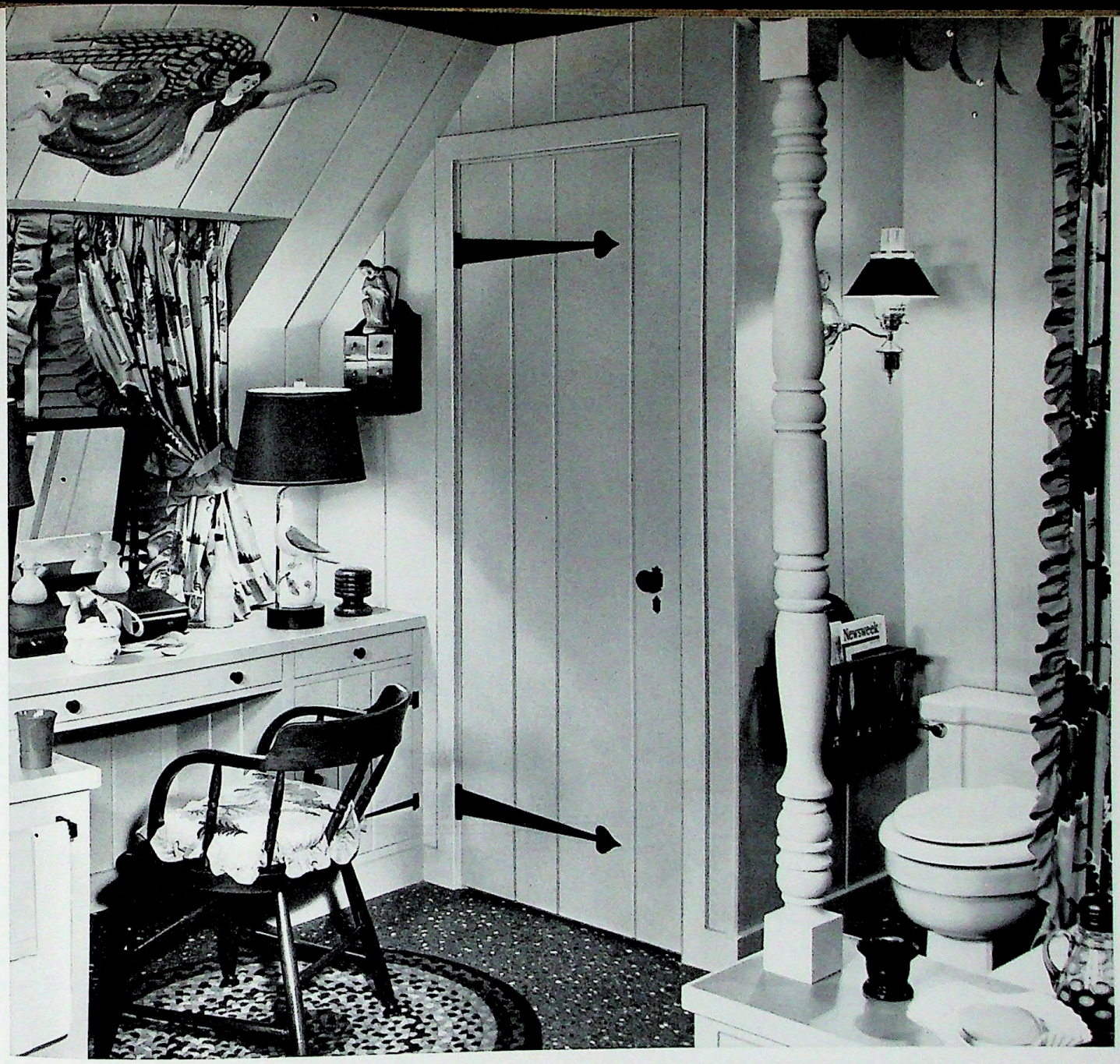
Floor plan and wall elevations for room opposite, page 187.

A MEDITERRANEAN LOOK. The light which falls on this sunken bath with its dull chrome railing comes from a skylight in the ceiling. The Mediterranean effect is achieved by a wallpaper made more realistic by the recessed arches and the balustrade built into the end of the room. All the accessories—the lights, the bank of cabinets, the dressing table, the dramatic white chair, the violet floor—contribute to a feeling of Roman luxury.

TOWEL DISPLAY (*opposite*). This floor-to-ceiling cabinet with two-way shelf space was built to make an effective divider between the bathtub and the toilet. The gay towels and toiletries are an essential part of the color scheme. They add a touch of brightness that accentuates the rich walnut finish of the shelves and cabinet fronts. This was the only bathroom in the house, so two washbasins were installed, one at each end of the room. These are especially appreciated in the morning, when the whole family converges on the bathroom. The yellow floor and walls emphasize the richness of the dark brown wood.

WALNUT AND GOLD. Many of the most successful decorating schemes start from a single idea. Here it was the wallpaper, a paper so delightful that it was continued right across the ceiling. Then the charming pattern of the foliage was repeated on the sliding plastic doors of the tub and the shower. The golden color scheme began with the paper, too, and to complement it nothing seemed so right and handsome as walnut paneling. The twin basins with their grilled cabinet fronts, the vanity in front of the window, the ceiling-high mirrors, all spell luxury and convenience.





TWIN SHOWERS (*opposite*). The owners of the house demanded that there should be no waiting, so this bathroom is equipped with two showers, two adjoining washbasins and a step-in tub. Heaven blue was chosen for the walls, to match the airy light from the windows over the showers and the tub. These skylights ensure perfect privacy. The sliding door of the towel closet is shown in the illustration; another sliding door shuts off the toilet area. The pattern of the floor adds drama and space to this modern interior.

AUTHENTIC COLONIAL. This tiny bathroom under the eaves is convenient and cozy, and every detail is early American. A turned column and scalloped valance give distinction to the bathtub, and the spattered linoleum furnishes a splash of color. The dressing table and cabinet under the basin are built in, and the authentic iron hinges and drawer-pulls are a dramatic contrast against the white wainscot walls. It just goes to prove that a bathroom can be as colonial in decoration as any other room in the house.

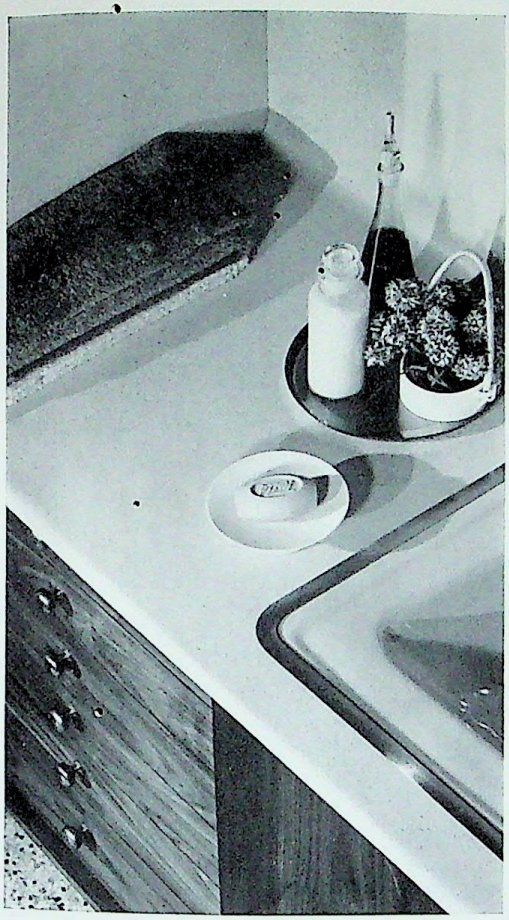
VINYL SURFACINGS
decorative and practical

Most homemakers are familiar with the many roles vinyl materials play in today's decorating—all the way from floors to upholstery fabrics. But you may not be acquainted with the use of this material for walls, tables, and counter tops. Vinyl is a decorator's dream and a housewife's ally.

The collection of photographs on these two pages demonstrates just a few of the many ways vinyl surfacing materials add decorative beauty to the kitchen, bath, and other rooms in the home. The large photographs top left and right show how a single sheet of flexible vinyl surfacing can be formed around the edges of a counter, across the top and right up the wall—even over the window sill or around a door frame—in an unbroken, seamless line. In addition to its streamlined beauty, the elimination of joints and crevices makes a continuous vinyl surface like this as easy to clean as a china dish.

Although these illustrations show only kitchen and bathroom counters and walls, decorators and interior designers find many other uses for vinyl surfacing materials. They are using them for decorative and practical surfaces on counters and shelves throughout the house and on tables of various types. Actually, vinyl can be used almost anywhere your individual fancy dictates.

ONE BATHROOM, THREE COLOR SCHEMES (*at right*). Look closely at these three photographs and you will find they are all of the same room. The differences are in the color schemes and the construction of the cabinet around the lavatory. It is as simple as that. These three treatments also demonstrate the decorative versatility of flexible vinyl surfacing materials as a counter top and splash protector on the wall.



Flexible vinyl surfacing materials are as practical as they are decorative. The picture, above, clearly shows how such materials can be wrapped around the edge of a counter in a single continuous piece.

FAMILY ROOMS FOR COMPLETE LIVING

Today, just as it was back in Grandmother's day, a single room is impractical for both informal parties and "state" occasions. Grandmother solved the problem with a "sitting room" for the family's everyday use and a "parlor" in which Sunday guests were entertained. In a modern home, the parlor has disappeared and the living room serves for formal entertaining. In like manner, the old-fashioned sitting room has been made over and streamlined to become a carefree place for family relaxation and casual entertaining. And since, in this day and age, even the most formal gatherings are likely to turn casual, they, too, almost always end up in the family room—the most popular room in the home. The character of a family room should be determined by the personality of the family itself. What are their interests? Are they musical? Do they love games? Do they like to read? How old are the children? With the right answers to these questions, good decorating is easy. The point is that the family room should please everyone. It can be in the basement, the attic, or on the first floor, but it should be spacious, and it *must* be casual. A family room should be a place for relaxing after tennis or a swim. . . a room where shorts, slacks or jeans are worn, and where *everything* need not be in order. Fortunately, there is a new world of almost indestructible materials to choose from for draperies, counter tops, and floors. Because these materials are beautiful in texture and design, all kinds of exciting possibilities present themselves. Then again we don't take ourselves so seriously today. Whimsical touches in furniture or accessories signify today's sophistication. The family room is the perfect place for imaginative decorating because it's the place for fun and family contentment. On the following pages we have included rooms for do-it-yourself economy as well as many where cost is not the primary consideration. In all cases, no matter how varied the results, imagination is the common denominator.

SUGGESTION FOR A MILLIONAIRE (*opposite*). The gold and glitter of the sumptuous playroom at the left are not quite so expensive as they look—that is, if you can afford to build a king-sized swimming pool with a skylight overhead and a step-down barbecue next to it. Other details include a round barbecue pit with a handsome white funnel chimney, inlaid brass lines in the floor which repeat the gold of the decor, and a waterproof plastic fabric to protect the upholstery. In such a setting even a hamburger can't help but be delicious!

SOLARIUM FAMILY ROOM. A room like this is a natural for a home with a sunporch, or it can be achieved with the addition of a prefabricated greenhouse. The character of this glassed-in room controls the color scheme—green and white with a dash of yellow to greet the sun as it pours in. The big basket chairs and the comfortable green upholstery set the stage for relaxation. They're an outright invitation to guests or family to drink their morning coffee in an atmosphere of summer all the year 'round.

GALA GAME ROOM. A whirling pace is set by the vinyl floor, highlighted by strips of contrasting color suggesting a racecourse. The carrousel horse also tells you this room was planned for fun. Convenient seating at the game table is provided by solid walnut stools designed to look like huge chessmen. Genuine cork wallpaper in rich brown tones has a warm textured effect. It is used again for the base of the built-in couch, which is covered, like the other upholstered pieces, in a soft olive-green tweed. The striped draperies in the sliding glass doorway are felt panels sewn together to carry out the striped motif inset in the vinyl floor.

SPACE FOR A HOBBY. Open up a room for additional space for spare-time activities and improve the original area, too. This hobby area can be gained by enclosing a porch, converting an adjoining garage, or by building an addition. The two levels add architectural and decorative interest and separate the activities in the room without banishing the hobbyist to exile. But the unique touch is the oversized window aviary—for live or stuffed birds, depending on your fancy. A companion wall of "birdhouse" shelves emphasizes the out-of-doors quality as does the stone-chip styling of the vinyl floor. Storage chests under the window hold hobby equipment or toys.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 188

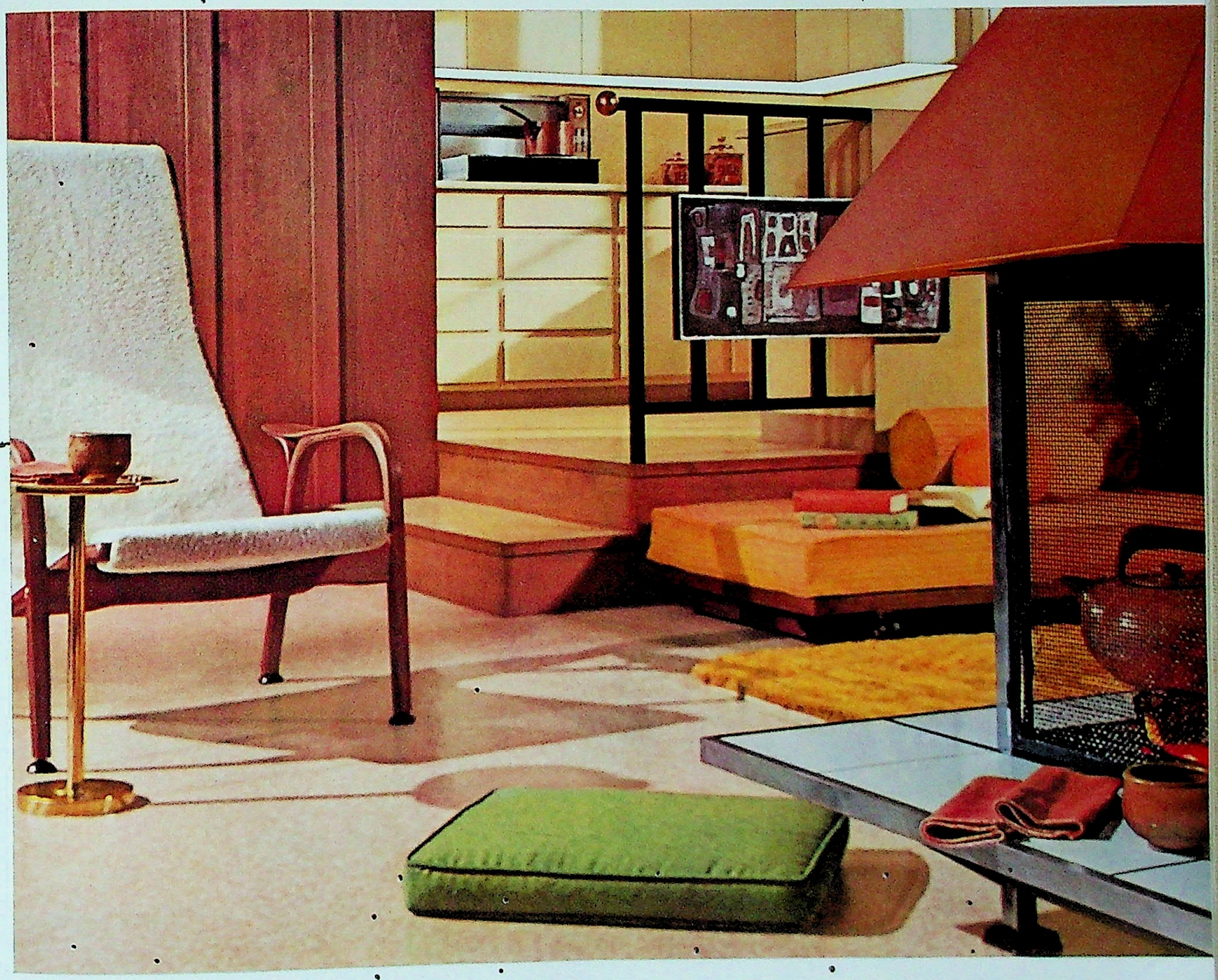
EXOTIC AND ECONOMICAL (*opposite*). The room as you see it is looking its very best, ready for the guests to arrive. Windbreakers of grommeted sailcloth close off the outside porch for privacy. The tubbed artificial orange trees and the handsome wrought-iron candles are part of the mood. The spectacular printed upholstery in island blue and gold and the wonderful hooded bamboo chairs are the main features of this re-creation of the South Seas. The walls are finished in bamboo paneling and the floor harmonizes.

A FAMILY IN HAWAII. Where does this room end and the outdoor patio begin? The vinyl floor inside the sliding glass doors complements the brick patio with its barbecue fireplace. The wood fence outlining the yard, helps to contain the living-room-patio area and make it a united area. The brilliant upholstery provided the scheme for the walls and floor. The lantern lighting, the oriental use of cushions around the low table, and the teak-finished rattan for the settee in the corner all contribute to the exotic but relaxing atmosphere.

WHEN MUSIC IS RECREATION (*opposite*). How better display the beauty of a cello than against this lovely background of red and warm grays? The piano is located to make it the focal point of this room devoted to music with a stage big enough for any family orchestra. The corner fireplace is raised to the level of the stage, and the firewood is stacked under the apron. The couch at the right is L-shaped to seat the audience for comfortable listening. Behind the couch are draperies that close to shut off the kitchen-dining area which completes the room.

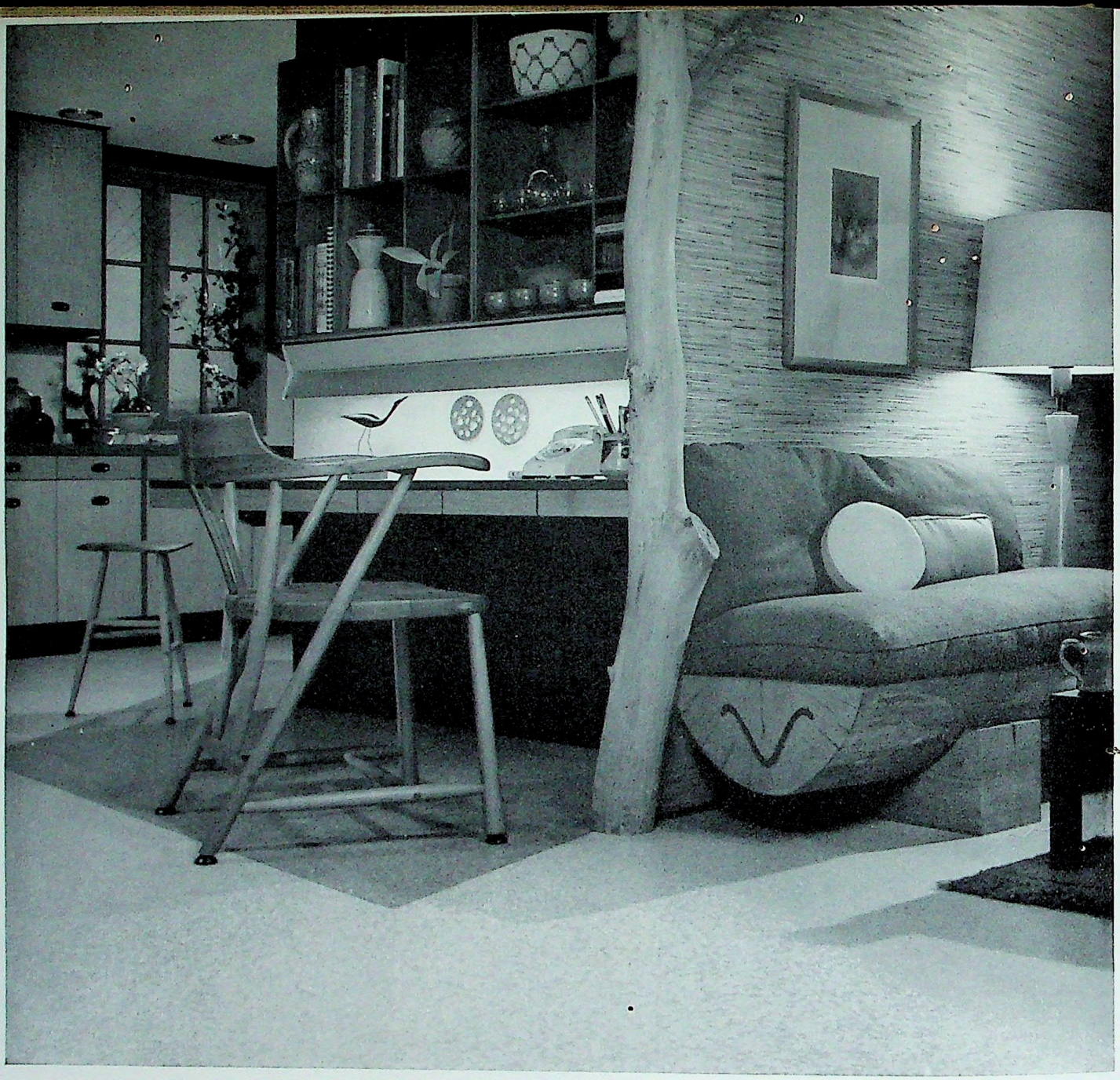
CONVERT A GARAGE FOR EXTRA SPACE. The handsome copper of the fireplace hood and the copper and gold tones of the walls and floor blend beautifully in this converted one-story garage. This conversion from garage to family room was possible only because the chimney could be built straight through the one-story roof, and around it lounge chairs and a low couch could be set for the family to congregate. The couch is low enough not to break the open lines of the handsome iron railing edging the stairs.

Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 189



RED SHUTTERS (*opposite*) in an old-fashioned bay window work a wonderful transformation. They add privacy without curtains and allow maximum sunshine and light. The old apothecary chest at the left holds cookie jars, but it is roomy enough to store games, linens, and almost anything else needed in a room used by the whole family. The color of the upholstery on the foam cushion window seat matches the chair cushions and the substantial coffee cup waiting for an early-morning arrival. And it's a cheery alcove any hour of the day.

RAINY-DAY PLAYROOM. This gay playroom with its swing and carrousel horse was chosen as their favorite gathering spot by all the children in the neighborhood. It was planned with just this in mind—a maximum of fun with a minimum of damage. The center table seats as many as eight, if it has to, and the snack-bar stools are just the right height for thirsty youngsters. The projection screen behind the bar is always ready for slides or movies. Note: Although this room was built at ground level, it's an excellent room for a basement, too.



THE TEXTURES OF NATURE. The inspiration for this room's decor came from the hand-crafted captain's chair which occupies the center of the picture. The split log which forms the base of the couch and the tree trunk which finishes the corner of the wall emphasize the rustic theme. Grass cloth on the walls is in perfect harmony with the rugged character of the furniture. A deep counter has the proper lighting for a craftsman's skills. The windows are strung with colored twine for vines to grow on and for light to flow through.

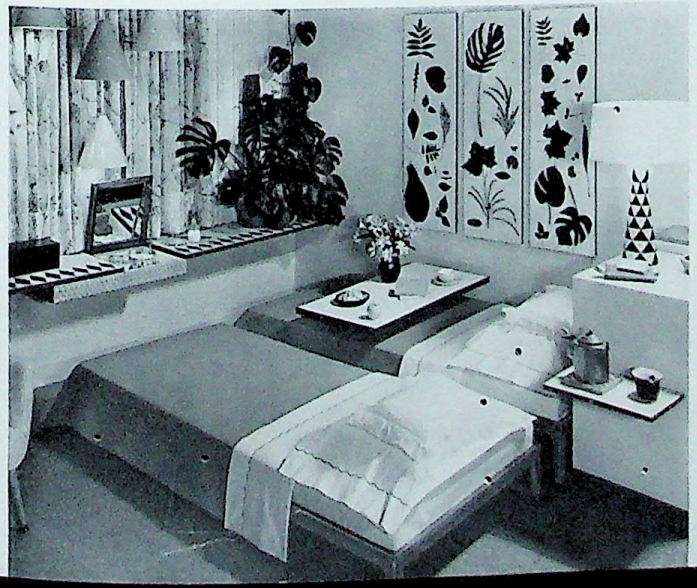
FOR VARIED INTERESTS (*opposite*). This family room is virtually a one-room apartment. Kitchen facilities, dining space and a lounge area are all contained within a single four-walled room. It even provides sleeping accommodations for overnight guests. Careful planning has eliminated any degree of clutter. Matching the sleek vinyl floor to the fireplace bricks adds to the spacious feeling of the room. The areas of contrasting color in the floor help set the various sections of the room apart. The floor-to-ceiling window tells its own cheerful story.

TEEN-AGERS' HAVEN. This fun room can be enjoyed by adults, too, for it has every convenience that is needed for casual entertaining. A raised fireplace and barbecue pit are built into the stone chimney, and an L-shaped counter makes a wonderful place for snacks. The huge disc inlaid in the handsome vinyl floor and the use of records to ornament the divider are an amusing way to keynote this gay interior. The floor-to-ceiling window adds great charm and lots of light. There is a built-in spot for the television under the counter and for an exotic touch we chose cotton leopard-skin upholstery.

If you wish to add extra space for family activities here is one of the most practical ways to do it. We removed a wall, extended a concrete slab on grade, and constructed new frame walls and a ceiling with large expanses of glass. The original room and the extension were united by a sheet vinyl floor in a rugged pebblestone styling. The extension was made even more cheerful with a casual collection of furnishings and natural and homespun textures. The unusual "igloo" fireplace is a free-standing type. Installed as a center of interest, it makes a conversation piece as well as a source of auxiliary heat for chilly days.

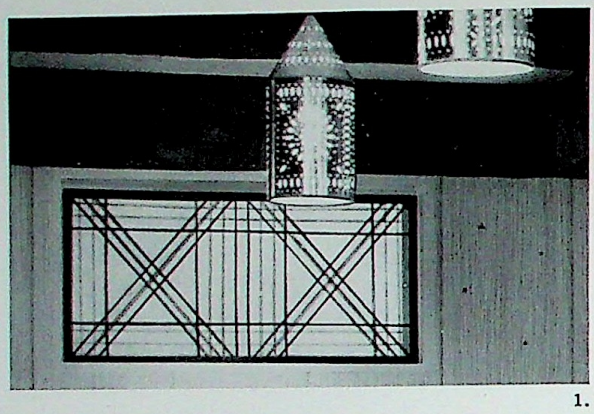
DON'T FORGET

HIDDEN SLEEP SPACE. The room at the left and above is an excellent all-purpose room, a den, a recreation area or a guest room. Yet it measures only twelve-and-a-half by sixteen feet. Because the room is small, the furniture was carefully selected for its size and for convertible use. The comfortable rattan chairs take little space and the coffee table folds to half its size. Wall panels open or close over the television set. And because this is in a split-level house, the bed pulls out from under the floor level of the adjoining room. A single light coloring on walls, ceiling and built-ins adds to the feeling of roominess, and contrasts beautifully with the cork-colored vinyl floor.



THIS COZY FAMILY ROOM with its lovely lighting, designed for reading or listening to records, can be easily converted into a guest room when required. The coffee table, the only piece of furniture which has to be moved, is light and not too large. The sofa opens into a pair of trundle beds and is shown, made up for guests, in the small picture at the left. The cantilevered end table can be moved up from the corner for reading or a midnight snack in bed.

WINDOWS WITH PERSONALITY



1.

Gone are the days when the consistent use of curtains and draperies often defeated the very purpose for which windows were planned . . . to give light and ventilation. There are many imaginative ways to frame a window and subdue strong sunlight without turning to humdrum window shades and blinds. These pages contain just a few examples, each keyed to the character of the room in which it is used. Windows offer a wonderful opportunity to add personality and charm to a room. They are the eyes of your home and should always provide brightness and cheer. Whether or not your windows open onto a glamorous view, they can be made glamorous in themselves through framing and draping. Through the use of drapery fabrics and other materials, even the architectural style and size of your windows can be changed at will. Small windows can be made to appear wider or longer. Large windows can be made to appear smaller, if that is desirable. Beyond the window treatments described and illustrated on these two pages, we suggest that you study the windows in all of the rooms throughout this book. You will find a wealth of ideas in them.

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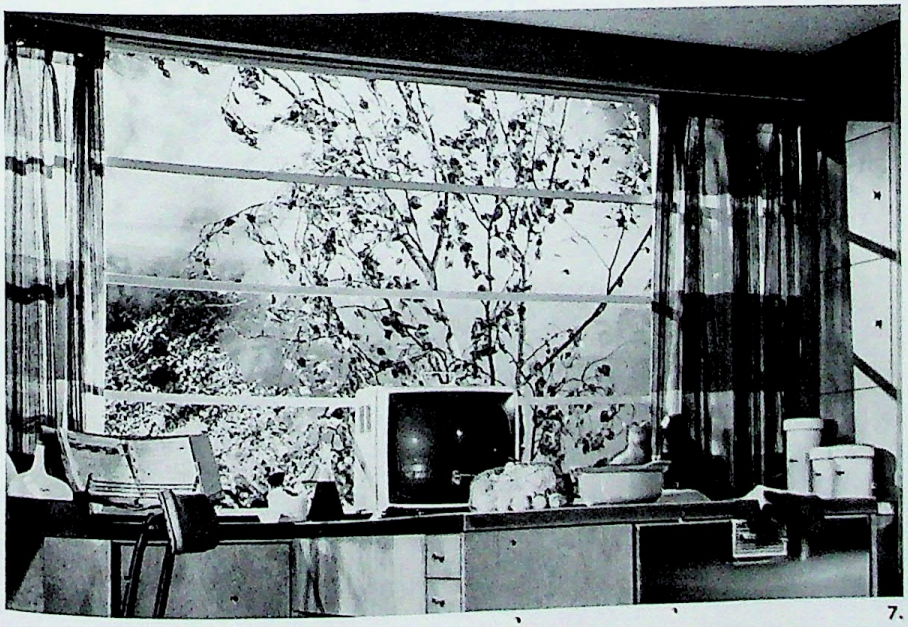


7.

1. *Colored yarn or twine is stretched in gay but conventional pattern over two ceiling-high windows. The effect is warm and decorative and the light continues to pour in.*

2. *In a remodeled basement, brightly striped draperies are dropped to transom level. They provide a touch of gaiety without cutting off either ventilation or light.*

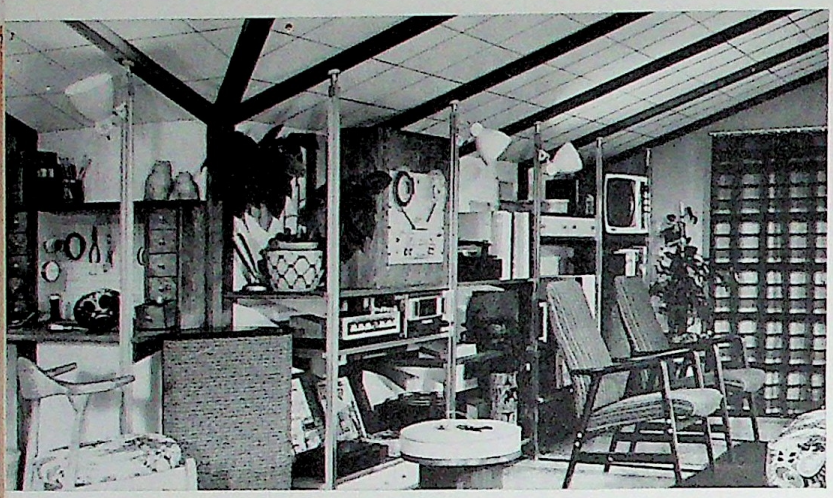
3. *The ladylike and Victorian mood of the room is emphasized by the lacy aluminum grillwork. Using it as a frame and valance gives an elegant, king-sized look to an average-sized window.*

4. *For a high-ceilinged room, nothing has more charm than folding shutters. Used in tiers, they can be adjusted for limitless lighting effects.*

5. *Here the window shade is made of a fabric that matches the wallpaper. It's a wonderful way to unify a wall in a busy work area.*

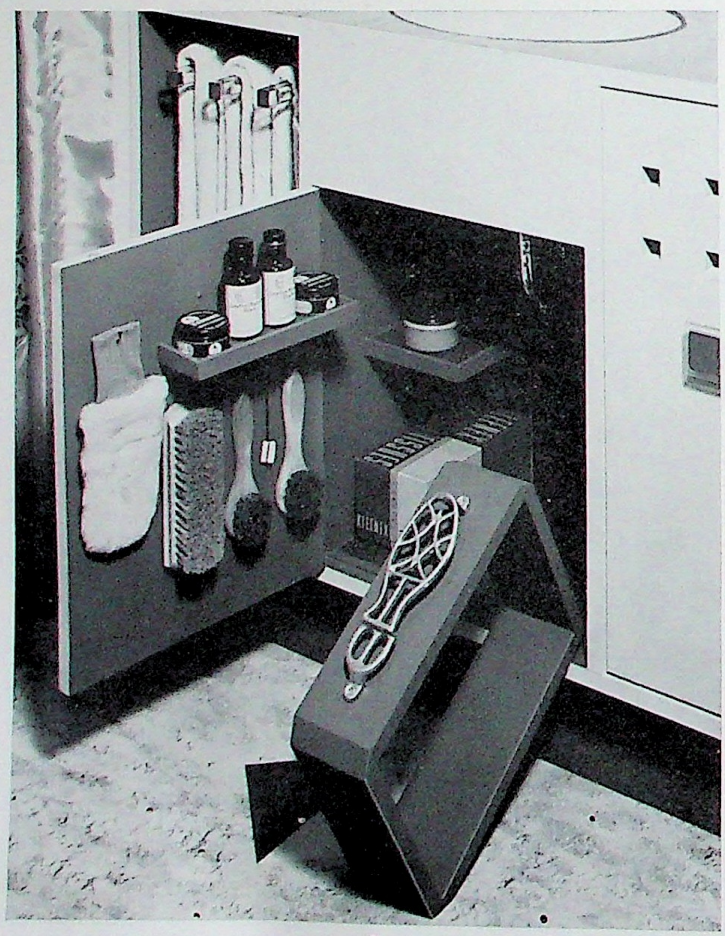
6. *White screening is hung over sliding glass doors to break a strong light and add privacy. The screens are easily removed for cleaning.*

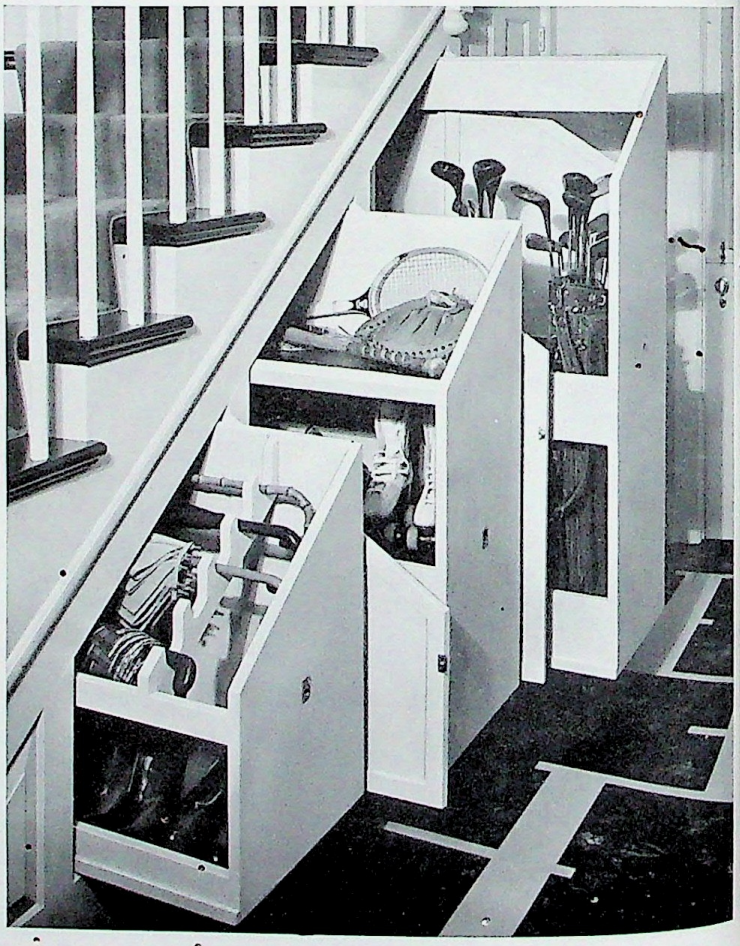
7. *Fiberglas curtains in this case cast a lovely glow without shutting off the light. They are exceptionally sheer and washable.*



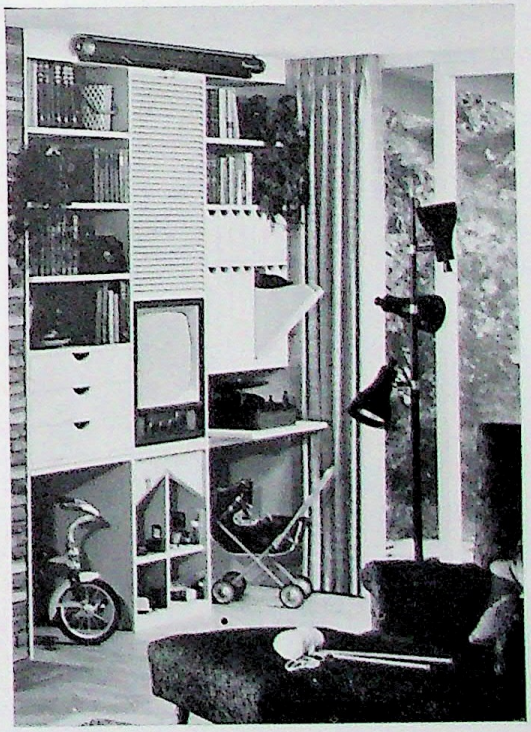
STORAGE SPACE
is where you find it

It would often be better to hire a good carpenter than to buy more furniture for storage space. In every house there is unused space waiting to be organized. There are numerous and easy ways to take advantage of such space to increase your storage room. Consider built-in cabinets around the basin in the bathroom, closets or deep bins under the staircase, shelves and cabinets around the television set and hinged drop-down panels for desk room where you need it. All of these improvements are yours for the doing. They simplify your housekeeping and add value to your home.





Father
Steve
Kathie



BASEMENTS ARE EXPANDABLE

A big family, and sometimes a small one, is often faced with the problem of space. Little children outgrow their small quarters. Teen-agers are always bringing home friends and the age of leisure has brought with it more and frequent adult guests. Where to put them? How to expand is a common problem. The basement may be your answer. Sometimes you can easily convert a garage or a porch, too. But anything that can be done without drastically changing the structure of your house is bound to be more economical than building an addition. In working with a basement the first things to establish are ample light and a good entrance. Sometimes this means taking down a wall for a window or breaking through a wall for a door so that the basement area is more conveniently accessible.

Today so many wall boards, acoustical ceiling materials and good floorings (that can be put down right over the concrete basement floor) are available that redoing a basement is often so simple the man of the house can do it himself.

On the following pages we have illustrated a great many ways in which basements have been made livable. Some of the rooms are as luxurious as any in the house. Others are functional and imaginative recreation centers and some are complete family rooms as homelike and usable as the den or living room upstairs.

In addition to basement living quarters, we have illustrated several examples of basements remodeled for work and hobby areas. These are shown in a series of before-and-after photographs featuring sewing, laundry or carpentry corners depending on the needs and hobbies of the family involved.

GAME ROOM—WESTERN STYLE. The first thing we did to make this game room was to funnel a chimney into the furnace flue and fashion a smoke hood large enough to fit the big round grill on the left. Then we bought an old player piano, shown at the right, and painted it the same gay blue as the felt on the billiard table. For western atmosphere, we covered the bar stools with a plastic pony hide and inlaid cattle brands in the vinyl floor. The tongue-in-cheek western theme was further embellished with the oil lamps, the cash register and the wooden Indian on the stairs.

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH. The secret of this Pennsylvania Dutch nook is the brick wall built to hide the pipes and fixtures that cluttered the basement. This particular wall is built of brick, but wall board covered with an embossed brick wallpaper would be less expensive and almost equally effective. Into the wall are built a barbecue pit (a fireplace is perhaps a more useful alternative), a kitchenette, and for atmosphere an old iron cook stove that serves as a buffet. Painted pieces of drain pipe hold the lights that show off the collection of Pennsylvania Dutch tole and china.

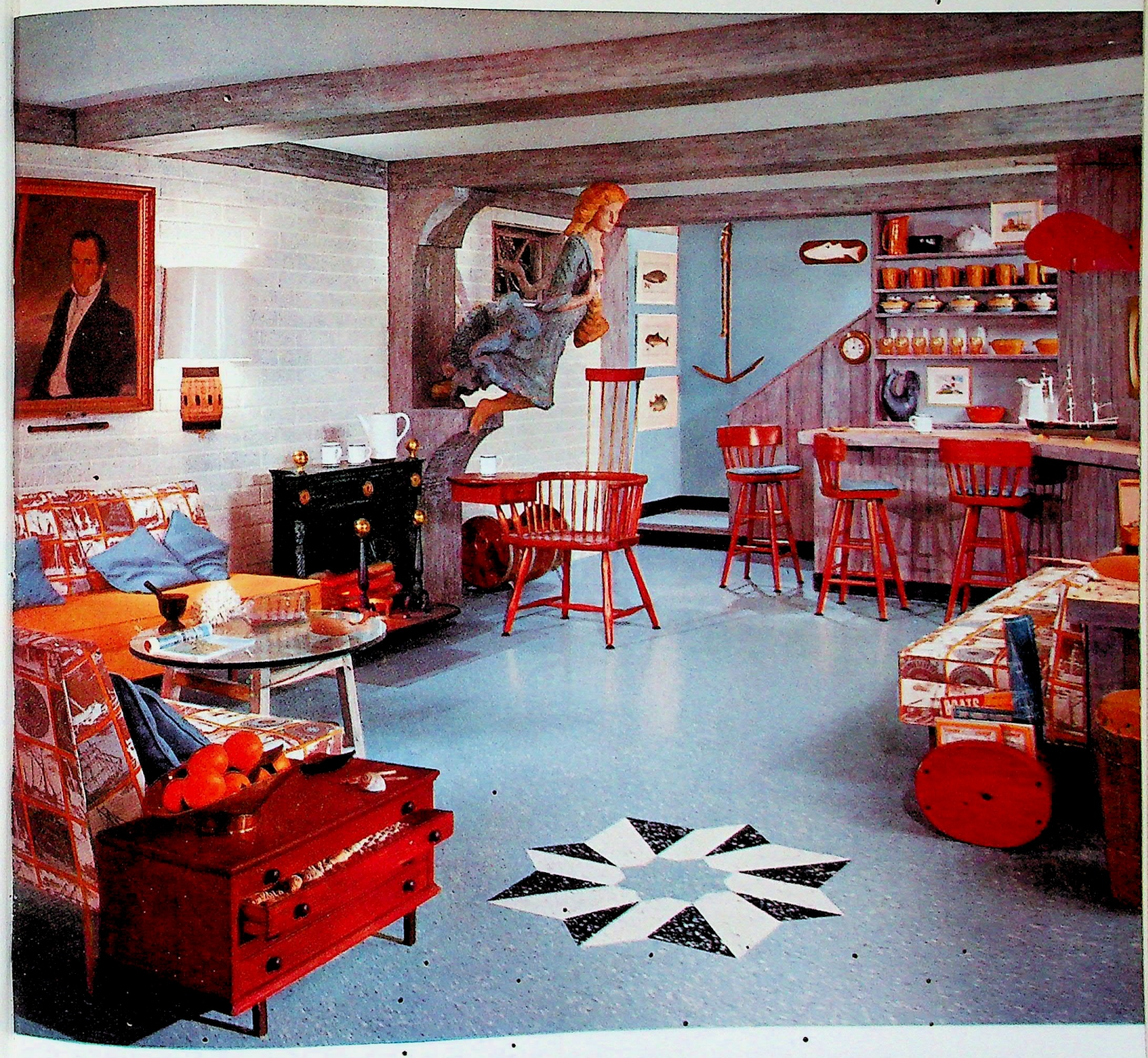
Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 190

BARBECUE BASEMENT *(opposite)*. A big chimney in the center of a basement can be an asset rather than a problem. Don't try to cover it up. Instead, boldly decide to make it the focal point of the room. In the picture the chimney has been opened up into a two-way barbecue pit, with a removable drawer for the ashes and a built-in cantilevered shelf which makes easy work for the barbecue chef. There is ample space for a comfortable table and chairs on the right; the upholstered banquette along the rear wall takes care of additional guests.

SODA FOUNTAIN. With a little imagination a small corner in the basement can be turned into an inviting recreation corner. The mural wallpaper which looks like a window gives an illusion of space and brightens up the dark wall. The draperies add to the illusion. A meshed metal fencing panels the entrance and shuts off the stair wall without cutting off the air. It makes a good place to hang pictures, menus or other souvenirs. The scalloped awning over the fountain accents the colors of the floor.

NEW YORK PENTHOUSE. This enchanting little snack bar looks over the apartment houses of the East Fifties in New York, but in reality is a small basement room whose walls are covered with a wallpaper mural. To make the effect even more dramatic, a balustrade was built around the walls and floodlights installed behind it to imitate the glow of the city at night. Potted plants were set above and below the balustrade to carry out the open-air rooftop effect. The color scheme originates from the dramatic printed upholstery.

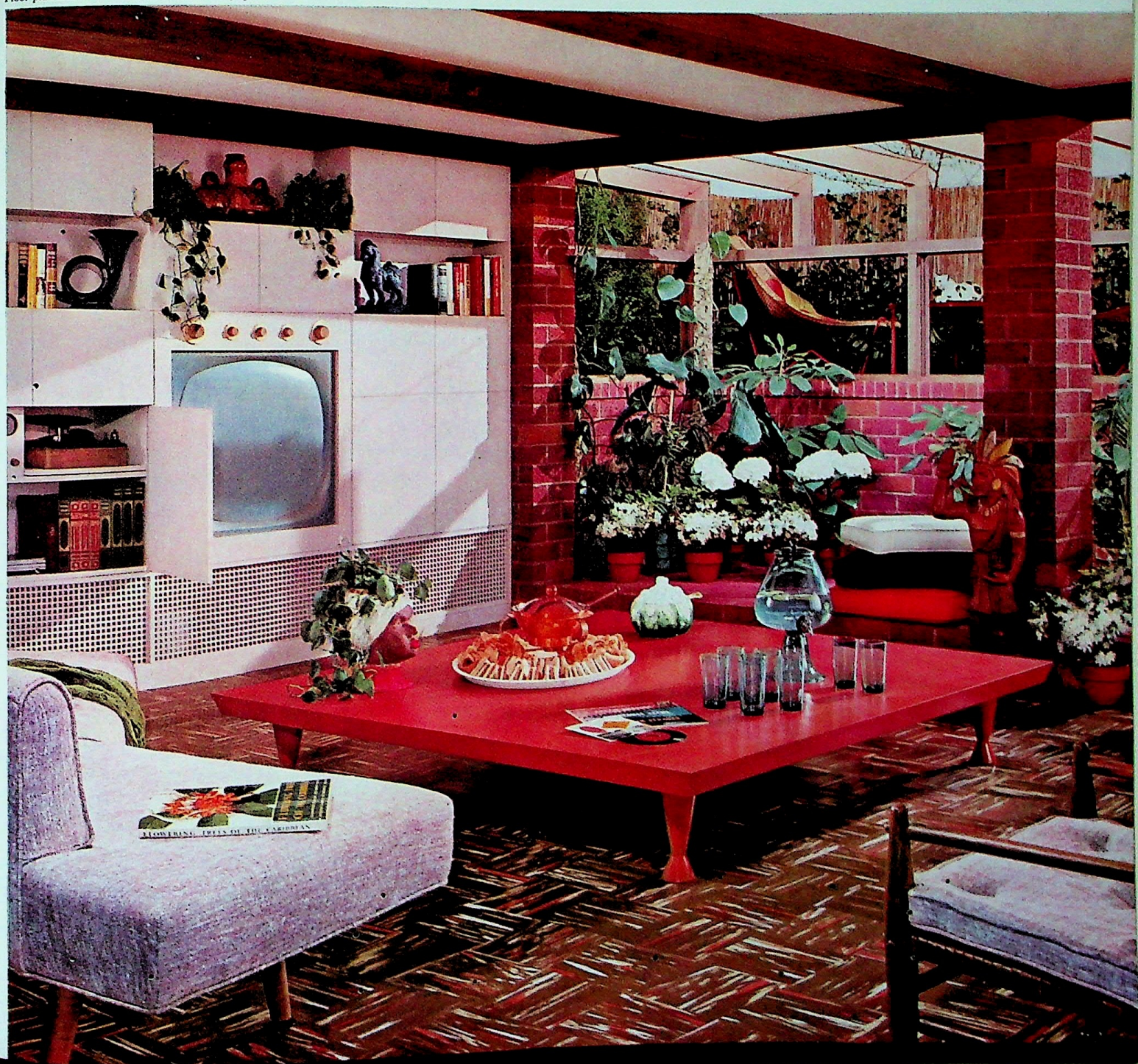
A CAPTAIN'S CABIN *(opposite)*. The ship's figurehead dominates this basement room built around a family's love for the sea. The figurehead is an excellent copy of an original, now available on the market. The heavy beams which are wood paneling over concrete contribute most to the atmosphere of a captain's cabin, but the driftwood panels, the ship's clock, and the seascape blue all help. The walls are painted brick, but they would be just as effective if they were cinder blocks or cement.



STRAWBERRY SUNDAE. Strawberry pink to match their favorite sundae was this family's choice for their basement decorating. The dance steps and the soda menus painted on the wall were contributed by the younger generation. The painted stripes on the stairs match the upholstery. Everyone agreed on what was needed for hospitality—a snack bar complete with soda dispensing equipment, a hot plate, and a counter-height refrigerator. And a cheery fireplace was a "must" for popping corn and toasting marshmallows. For teen-age activities as well as for adult entertainment and relaxation, a television set and a record player were installed behind the bar.

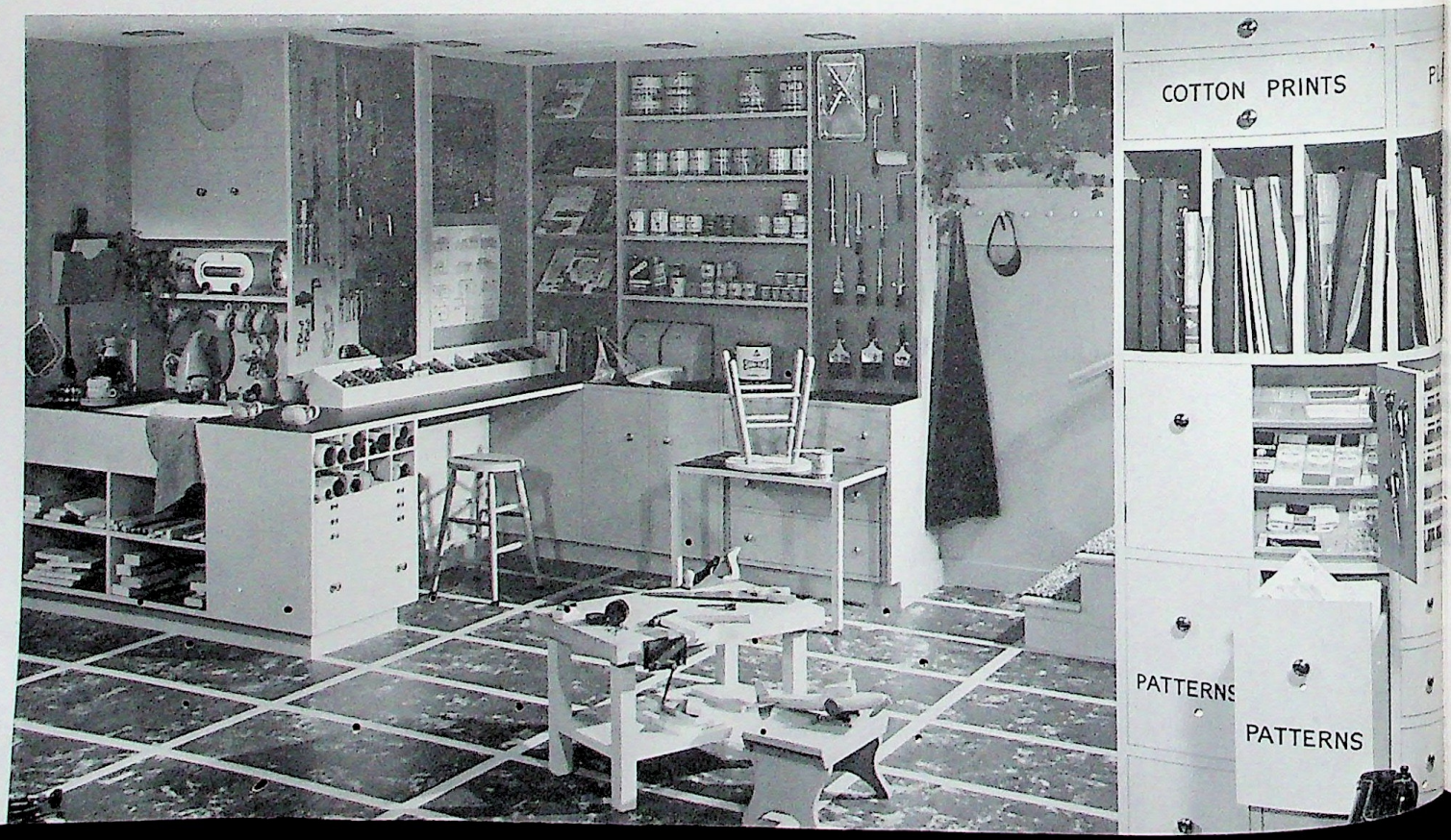
A GARDEN INDOORS. In this conversion, the original basement window and wall were knocked out, and a brick extension with glass roof and glass walls was built into the garden area. The plants which grow in this sunny room the year 'round are almost part of the garden outside. Winter, summer, spring or fall—this delightful room changes its character with the seasons. The television set is flanked by cabinets roomy enough to hold a whole family's odds and ends. The feeling of a garden room is carried out in the colors. A soft chrysanthemum pink is used for the tweed upholstery and painted wall, and the low lacquered table picks up the brick tones of the floor.

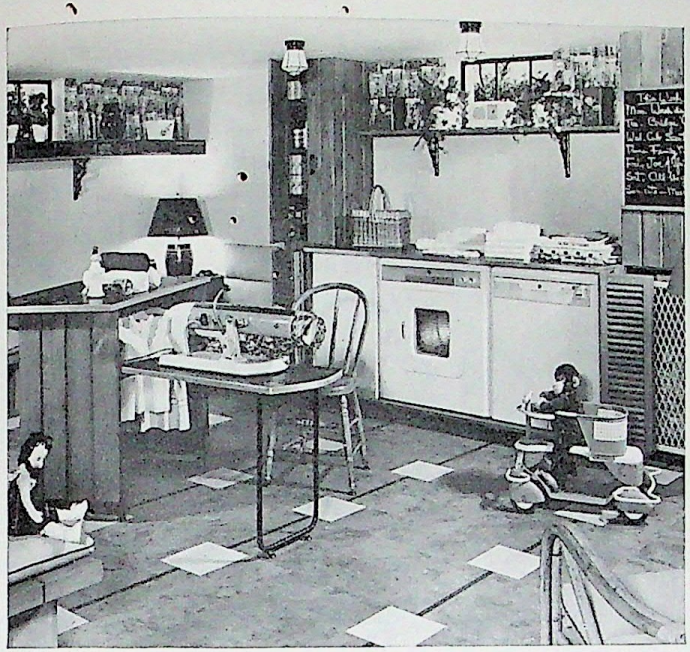
Floor plan and wall elevations for this room, page 191

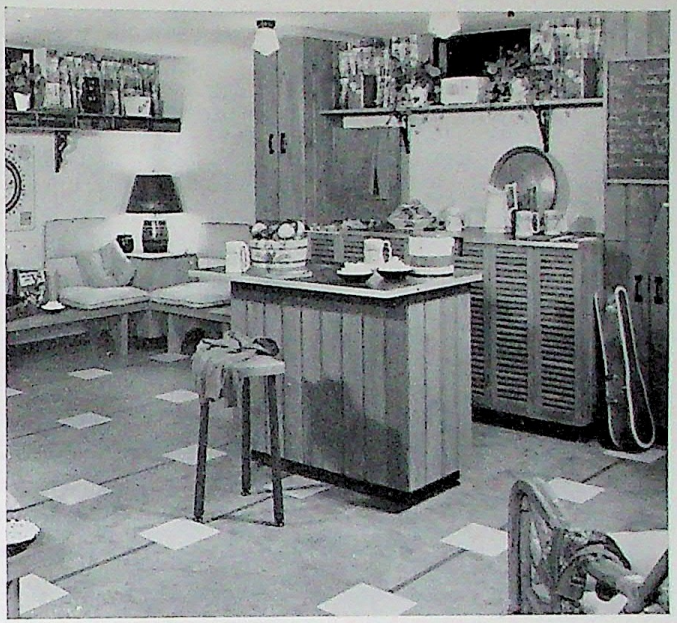


SPACE MAGIC IN THE BASEMENT

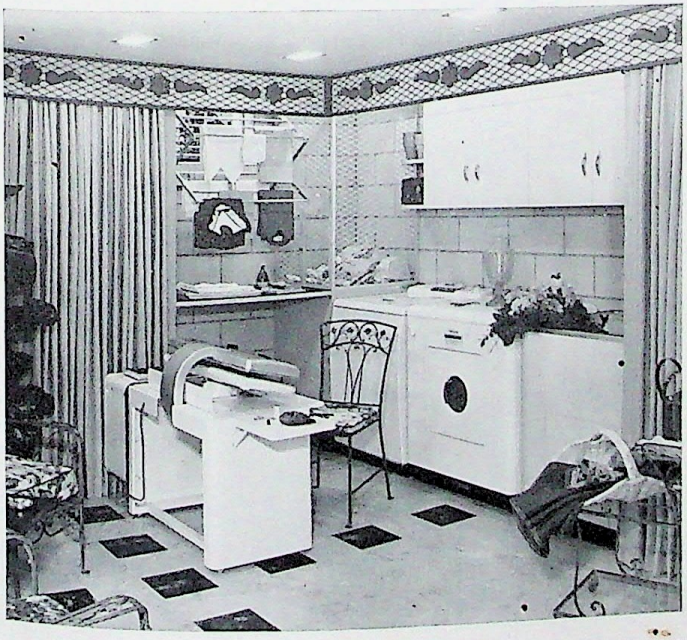
Before you begin to remodel your basement, make a careful scale drawing of your basement area. Then, after determining the requirements for your family's activities, make a list of the furniture and accessories you will want to include. Study your floor plan carefully and from it work out the proper dimensions of each accessory; otherwise the handsomest shelves and counter space may turn out to be useless. Begin your remodeling with the basement floor. The existing floor will probably be concrete, but today you can find modern vinyl flooring in a host of attractive colors and patterns that can be laid directly over the concrete. Then panel the walls to add charm and warmth to the room. Make certain that the lighting fixtures you have planned will give you the light you need. After these three stages have been completed, the rest is a matter of acquiring and arranging furnishings to meet the needs and interests of your family. The pictures on these pages contain many ideas which have proved to be extremely successful in other homes with needs like yours. They should suggest a number of ways to work a little magic into your own basement.

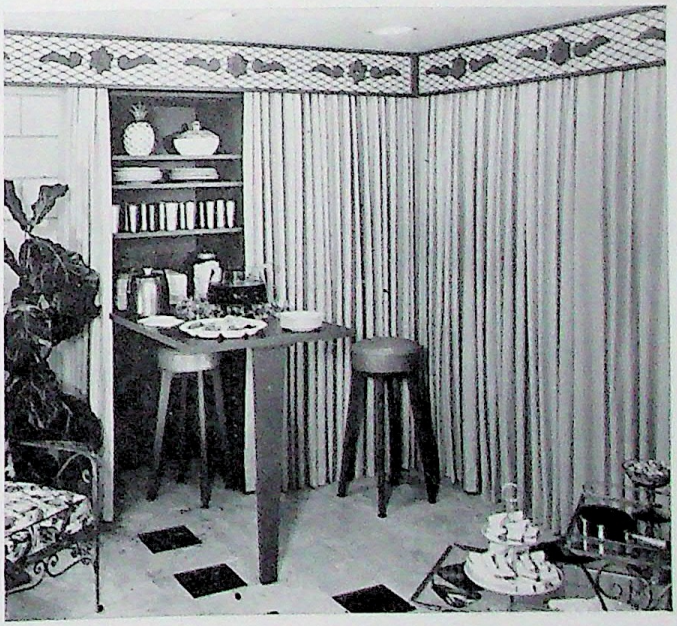






PRESTO CHANGE. The efficient laundry-sewing center, above, becomes an inviting recreation room for all the family simply by closing cabinet doors and hiding the sewing machine in its counter-height paneled covering.





LAUNDRY INTO PARTY ROOM. Here's another combination room that doubles for fun and entertaining after the family laundry is finished. The secret is in the floor-to-ceiling drapery that opens or closes to change the scene.

COMPLETE HOUSES

featuring exterior and interior harmony

In the next section of this book, we present a collection of five complete houses. Each one is different from the others in size and architectural design. They range in cost all the way from an economical row house to an expensive manor house.

Despite the differences in their size and cost, all five of these houses have one thing in common. The furnishings in every case are in harmony with their settings. For every room, the importance of selecting a color scheme and carrying it through has been emphasized. This is by far the best way to achieve a restful and harmonious interior, no matter what style of house you choose.

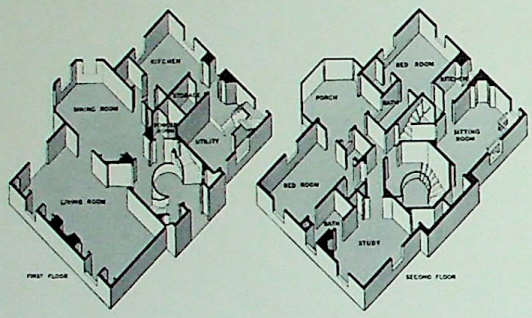
In selecting furniture we have been conservative. There are no museum antiques in any of these houses. Most of the pieces we have used can be found in the average home. We have simply glamorized them with colorful upholstery and carefully planned backgrounds.

The prices mentioned are only approximate. Labor and materials vary in cost in different parts of the country, and a house built five years ago will be more expensive to build today. If you are interested in any of the floor plans, the architect can be contacted directly. Don't let the price tags on these houses influence your interest in studying their decorative details—especially the color schemes. Harmony can be achieved through the knowledgeable selection of color and design in fabrics and interior-finish materials in any price range.

THE MANOR HOUSE

Designed by Milton Grigg, F.A.I.A., for his own residence in Charlottesville, Virginia

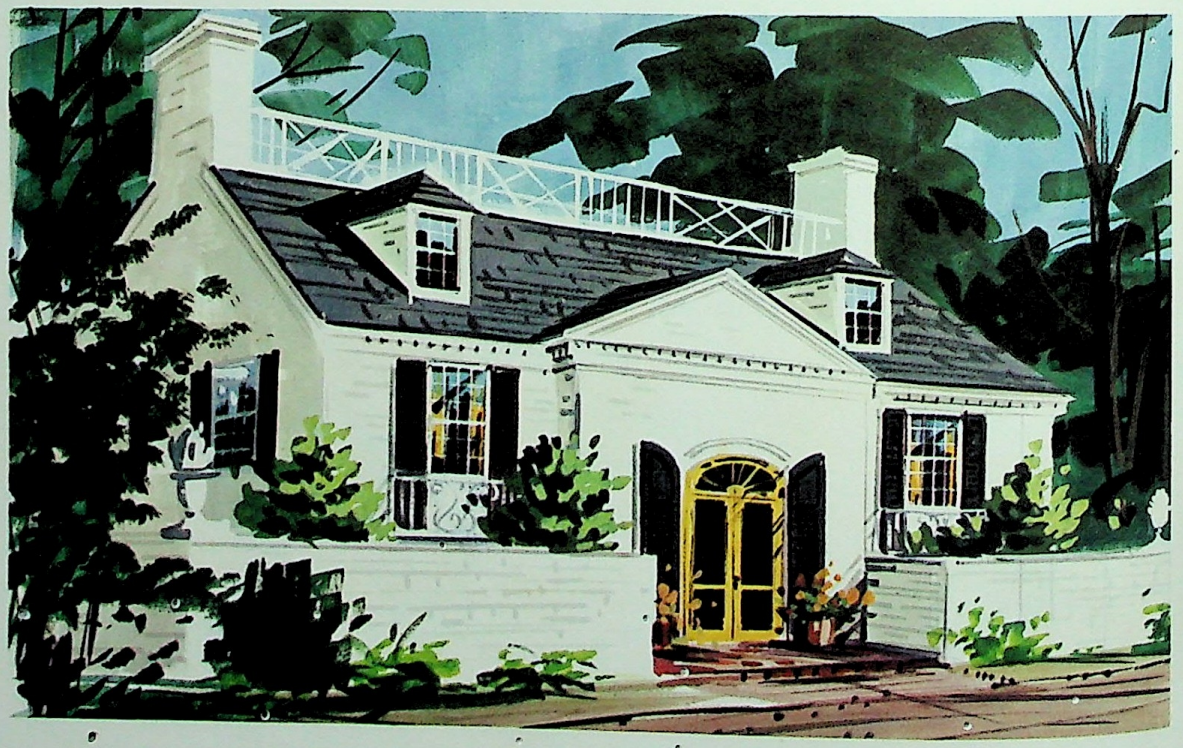
($75,000)

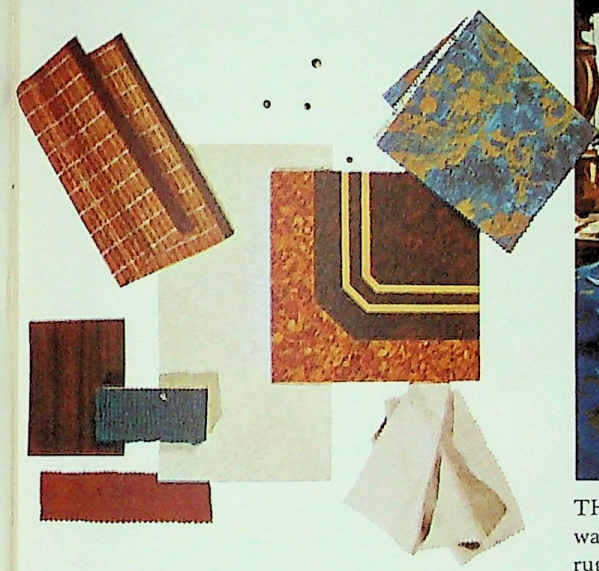


Because of the unusual floor levels, this house looks small but is actually spacious. The central entrance hall instantly establishes the unique arrangement of floors. Seven steps lead down to the living-room, dining room level. Nine steps lead up to the bedroom level. The floor above that level contains two bedrooms and a bath.

This Georgian Colonial is brick, painted white just as it would have been in the late eighteenth century. The slate roof blends with the blue-gray shutters, and with the gold door establishes the color scheme used throughout the interior.

Shown on the floor plan at the left, the bedroom level has one completely separate apartment, planned for an elderly permanent guest. Her entrance is from the garden side. The other half of this level contains a bedroom, bath, and study for the owners. The children's rooms are on the third floor. This is an ideal arrangement for three generations living in one house.

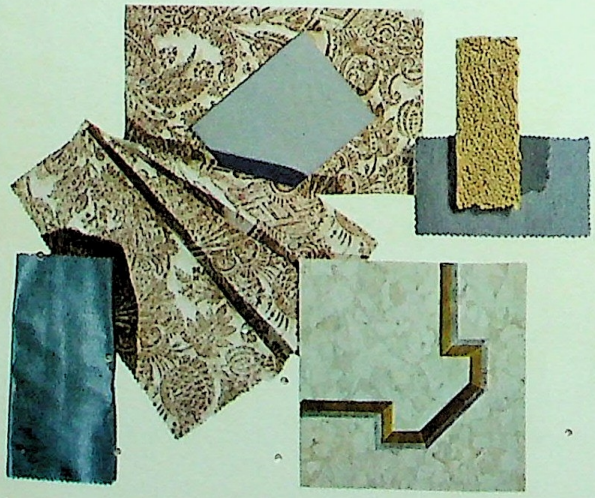


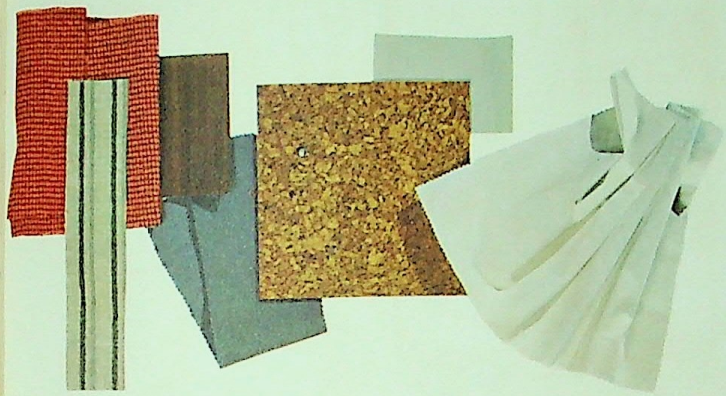


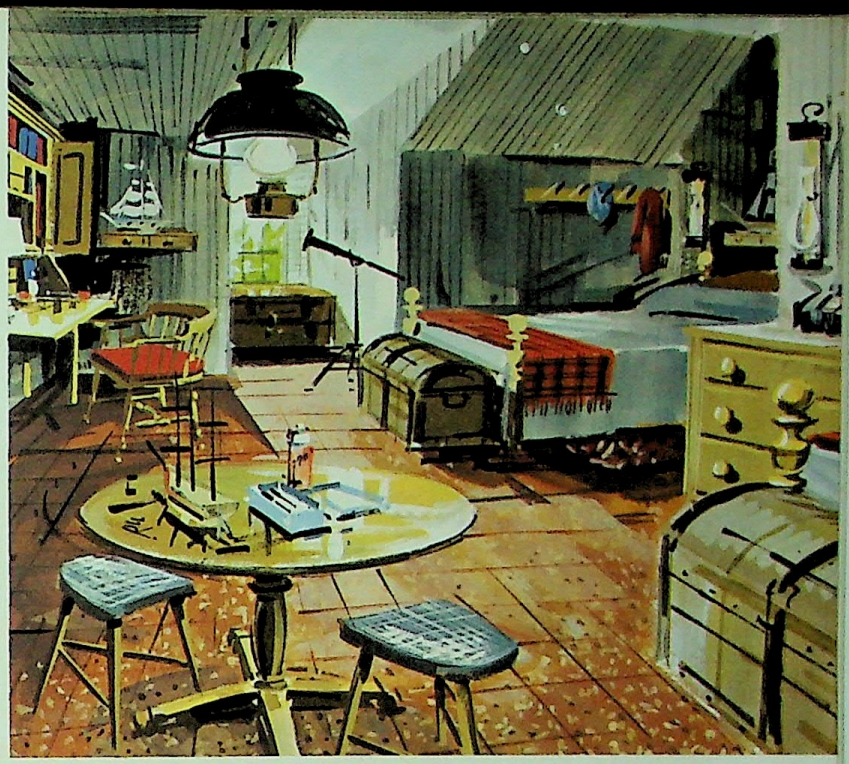
THE STUDY introduces emblem blue as a charming contrast to the walnut paneling and walnut-colored Venetian blinds. The two shades of the vinyl cork tile floor outline the octagonal rug and form a custom design as shown in the color scheme at left. This gives the floor a "furnished" look even when the rug is removed for summer.

THE POWDER ROOM, shown above, is a handsome example of well planned counter space. The warm wood tones are repeated in the double molding. The swinging doors at the right close off the toilet and are softly draped in a dull blue silk. Silver disks are set in the black vinyl floor, and this metallic effect is repeated in the brighter silver kidskin of the bench.

THE DINING ROOM takes full advantage of its unusual octagonal shape. The selection of an oval table for such a room is almost mandatory. In this case, traditional eighteenth century mahogany adds both convenience and beauty. The fabric of the draperies is repeated on the wall, and to maintain the open, almost outdoor look, delicate bamboo chairs replace the conventional heavy mahogany. The corner cabinets, barely visible, and the low matching buffets repeat the traditional note. The floor is inlaid with octagonal brass and aluminum to echo the lines of the room.

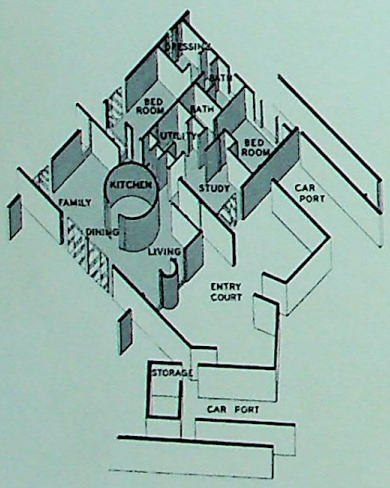






THE BOY'S ROOM. Under the eaves, the seafaring trunks and the captain's chair add a note of adventure accented by such details as the lantern and ship models. All of the furniture is colonial. and the accessories are authentic antiques. The wallpaper is gray with a fine charcoal stripe; and the same gray is picked up in the woodwork and again on the upholstery on the milking stools. The two sturdy desks flanking the door provide ample space for study.

THE GIRL'S ROOM is long and narrow as shown in the floor plan of the house. For that reason, the bed is set parallel to the wall. Deep cushions and a luxuriously draped canopy give the bed a regal quality, and the wreathed pattern of the gray-and-white print is as feminine as any young heiress could desire. The area rug in white and gold is handsome but inconspicuous against the muted tone of the floor. Notice how the tole lamps provide two dark, almost staccato accents, in a symphony of white and gold.



FAR HORIZONS

Designed by John Reed, AIA, Albuquerque, New Mexico

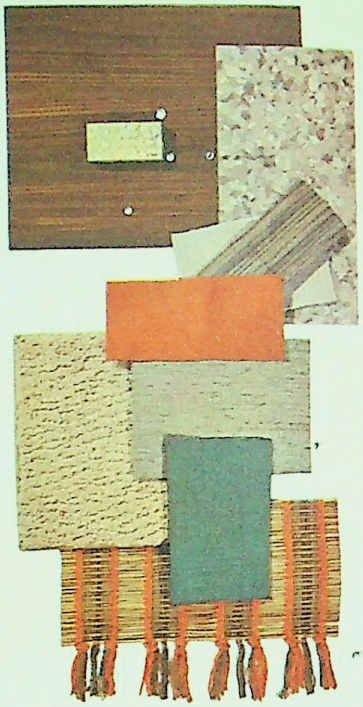
($20,000)

In designing this unusual house, the architect met two objectives: to afford maximum privacy from a busy highway which fronts the lot and to take maximum advantage of the sun. As you will see, he accomplished both objectives in a fresh and imaginative way. High walls ensured privacy, and a unique window treatment answered the lighting problem.

The roof is the clue to the structure of the house. The column in the left front foreground is the fireplace chimney. The long ladder-like skylight runs the entire length of the hall. The four domes in the roof are the light openings for the kitchen, the two bathrooms, and the utility room. The domes are made of Plexiglas and are virtually indestructible.

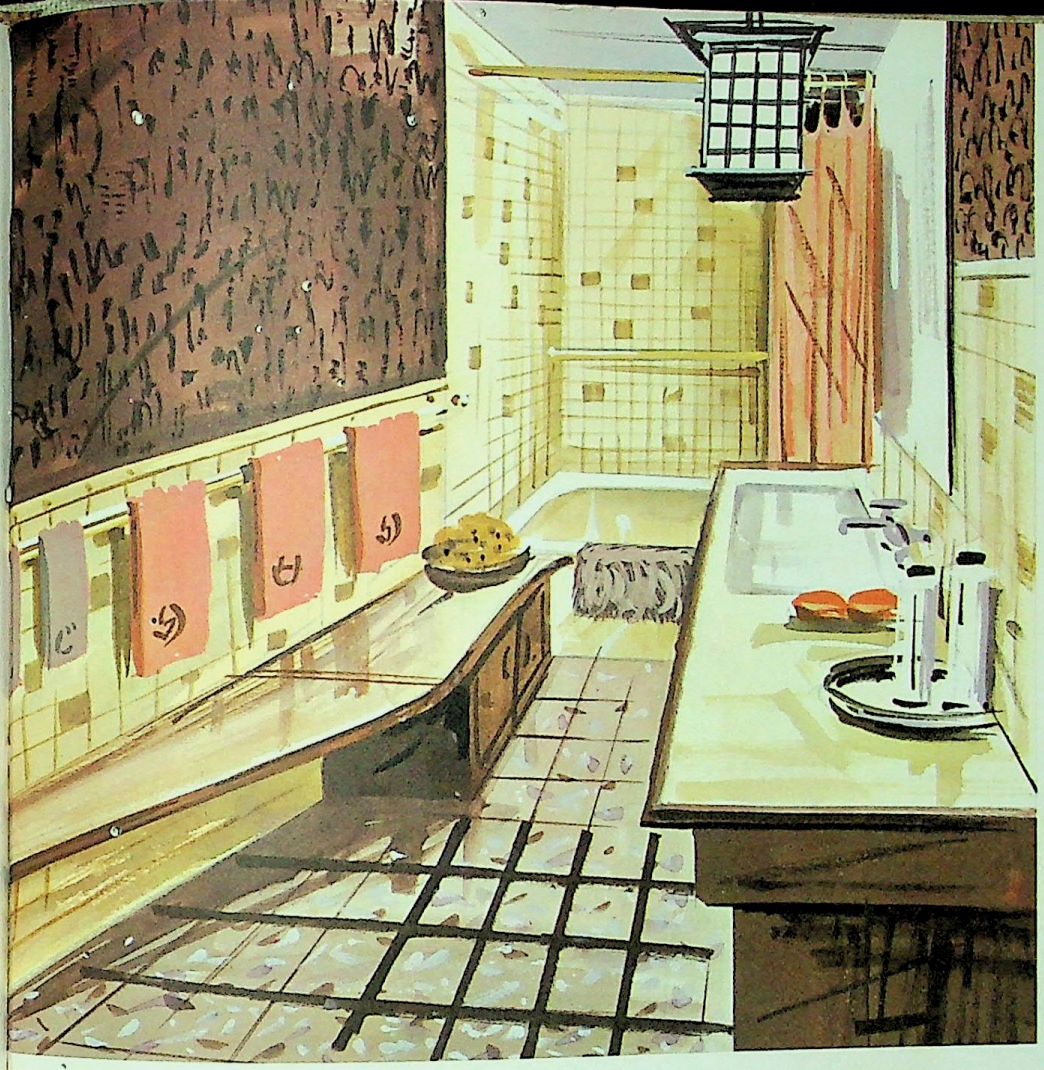
Teak-finished rattan was chosen to carry out the oriental feeling of the decoration. The colors throughout are burnished sunset shades, well suited to the New Mexico setting. They harmonize perfectly with the pebble-textured walls used extensively in the interior.

THE ENTRANCE HALL is a charming version of a central hall which immediately establishes the mood of the whole house. It runs from the front door through to the glass back wall which provides a full view of the garden. The skylight allows plenty of sunshine, and the handsome wood paneling is a perfect background for a prized Chinese statue. To harmonize with the soft tones of the wood and textured walls, the floor is a vinyl tile with a polished agate pattern.



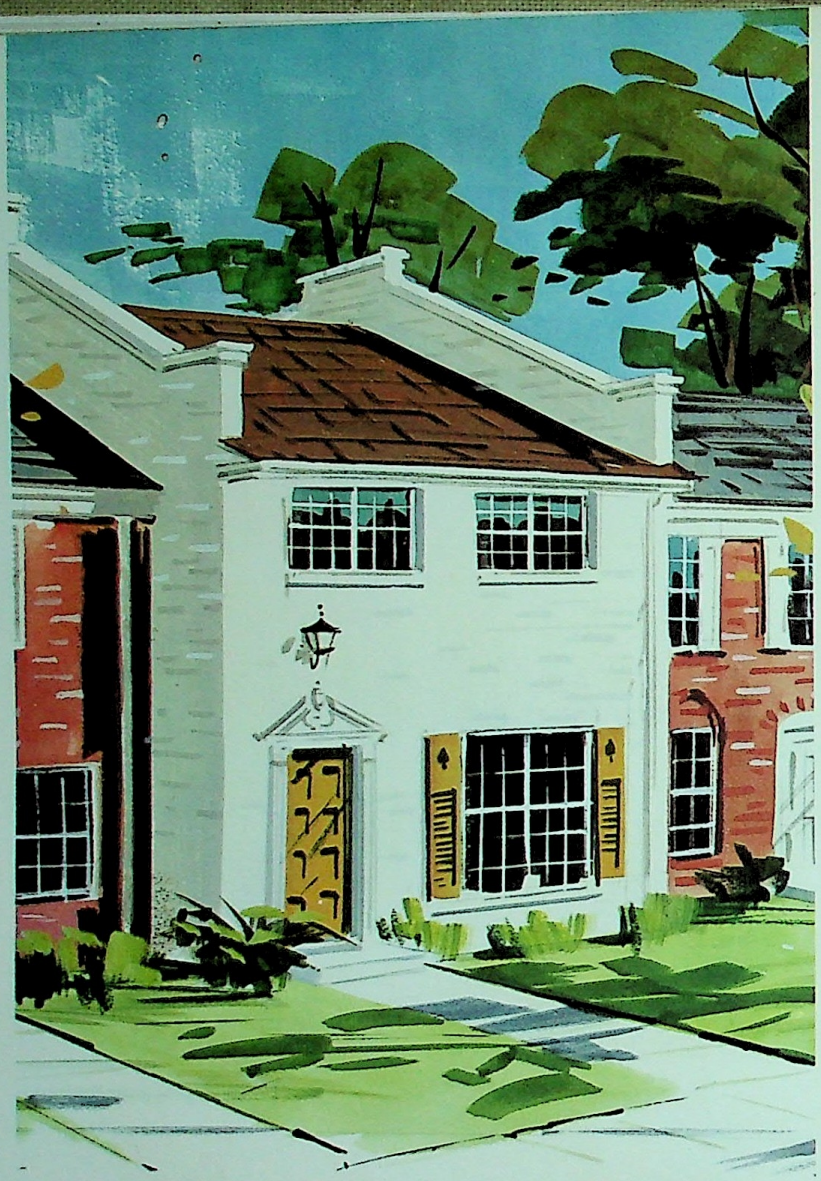
THE FAMILY ROOM. The circular wall enclosing the kitchen inspired the design of the built-in counter and drawer space curving under the low window. The furniture is particularly well arranged for family traffic. Blond rattan adds to the airiness as does the placement of the shelved chest over the television set. Hand-woven blinds have been used instead of draperies throughout the whole area.

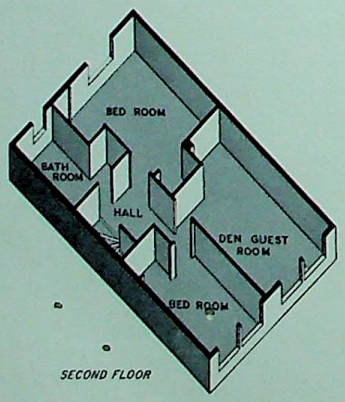
THE LIVING ROOM. *(Right)* The circular fireplace is a natural social area for family and guests. To take advantage of its design we arranged the furniture in a curve around it. The background or structure of this house is its dominant feature, and the rich but quiet furniture complements it perfectly.



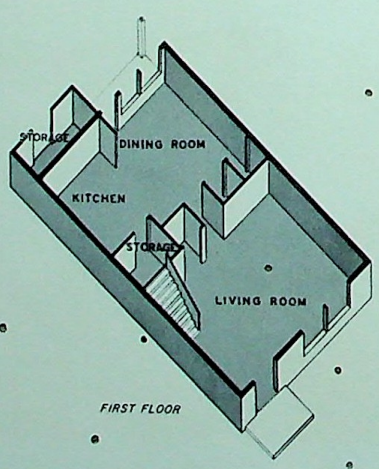
THE BATHROOM. The oblong shape of this room dictated its interesting decor. A big square tub with shower is hugged by three walls. A bench at tub level has been built along an entire wall for extra convenience. The bench is tapered so as not to block the entrance. The basin is set into a large vanity top along the right wall and the lantern light carries out the oriental motif. Black inlays in the floor repeat the lantern design.

THE BEDROOM. Perhaps the most oriental of all the details in this house is the shoji screen used in place of draperies over the windows behind the bureau. The lacquered mirror hangs from the ceiling so the screen can slide back and forth easily. Here again the rattan furniture gives a cool open look. The floor is the same rich tile used in the hall and complements the deep pile rug.





SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

THE TOWN HOUSE

Built by Bolinger-Martin, Inc.
Louisville, Kentucky

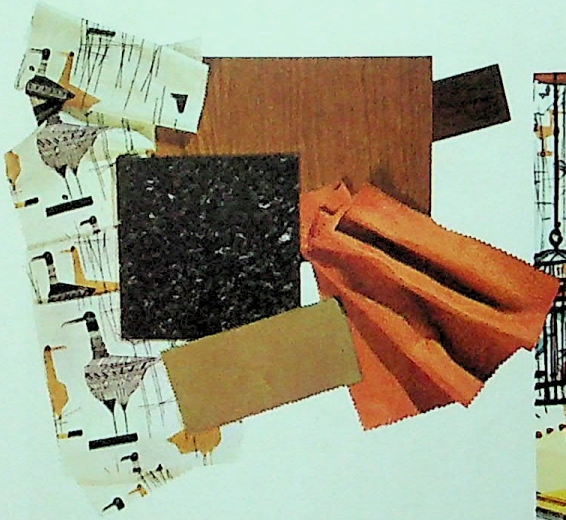
($12,000)

This is a row house with many points of interest. Like all row houses, it is inexpensive to build and low in maintenance. The large windows and heavy well crafted door and shutters remove any suggestion of drab Victorianism.

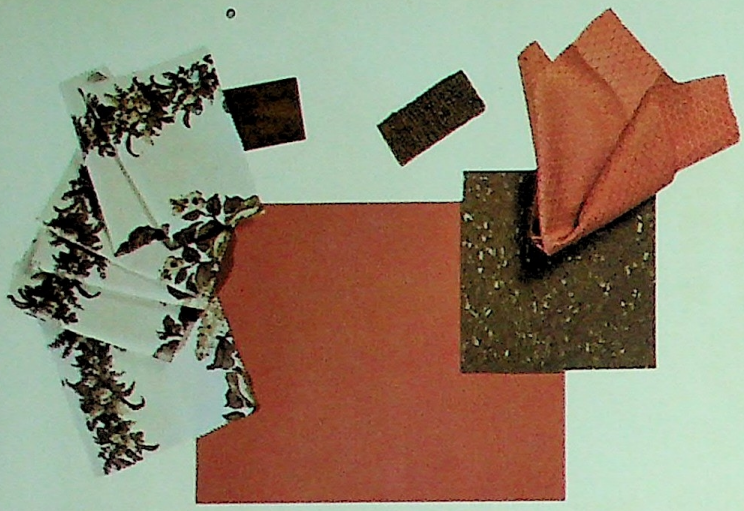
Since there can be no side windows in a row house, the colors used in the decorating scheme must be bright and cheerful. Here they combine all the sunshine shades from gold to bittersweet. Besides color, various devices add to the airy and spacious effect of the interior. The kitchen and dining room have been combined to make one large room.

The walls and floors are light, and a crisp mesh fabric is used for the curtains. Throughout the house, "see-through" chairs have been chosen, and archways replace doors wherever possible. The use of a single floor pattern maintains continuity and gives a feeling of greater roominess. In this case, a soft-toned vinyl-asbestos tile was used.

THE LIVING ROOM. This is especially well arranged for traffic. The rug is confined to the social area and leaves the walkway to the dining room, the stairs, and the coat closet uncluttered and easy to maintain. Two low chests serve as end tables and keep the view open. The cane-backed chairs let light and air through from the handsomely draped street windows, and a king-sized sectional sofa provides maximum seating space.

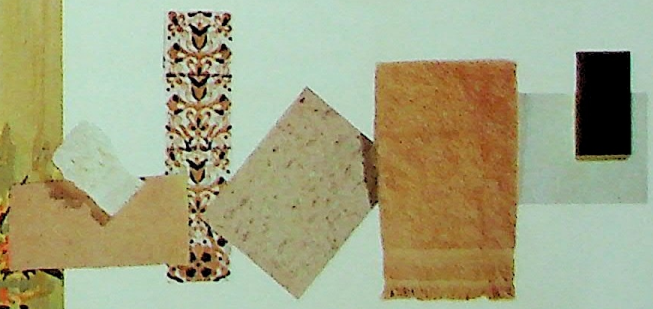


THE DEN GUEST ROOM. This combination room absorbs some of the wear and tear otherwise inflicted on the living room and offers a pleasant retreat for guests. The walls which look as though they are paneled are in fact covered with a very good wallpaper imitation. The sofa unfolds to provide comfortable sleeping space. The bookcase divider gives privacy to the desk.



THE MASTER BEDROOM. This room at the back of the house is next to the bath. It is small, and for this reason its flooring pattern is extended into the hallway. A soft area rug frames the bed. White floor-length curtains and a white background for the draperies help to make the room wider. The delicate but sturdy white furniture keeps the room light and airy, and the upholstered chairs are finished in plain fabric to maintain a serene, uncluttered atmosphere.

THE BOY'S ROOM. All the gear a boy could possibly need can be stored in the row of built-in chests that run right across the front wall. The draperies are handled so as to preserve this spacious wall-to-wall feeling. The window valance is carried out as an unbroken border around the room. A special feature is the use of the alphabet-printed linen pasted on the unpainted chests and the flat frame of the bed.

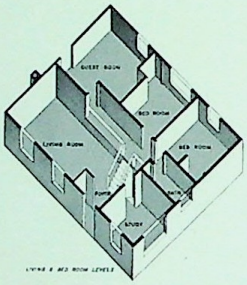


THE BATHROOM. A wall divider to cut off the toilet area was the first step in decorating this luxurious bathroom. A wall-length counter was then built around the basin, and the storage space beneath finished in walnut. Handsomely embroidered tape bands, carrying out the color scheme, frame the mirror, adding charm to the painted wall and pure white shower curtain.

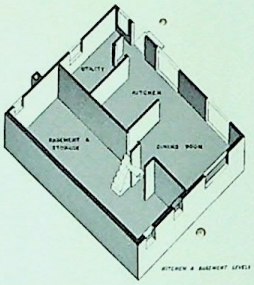
THE FRENCH PROVINCIAL HOUSE

Buffalo, New York

($30,000)

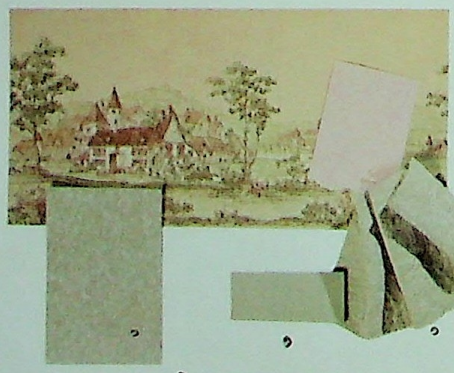


LIVING & BED ROOM LEVELS



KITCHEN & BASEMENT LEVELS

THE DINING ROOM is a rare combination of informality and elegance. The shimmering alabaster chandelier keys the whole room. The curved legs of the baroque table and chairs repeat the white of the chandelier. A delicate painted mural of the French countryside covers the wall leading into the kitchen.



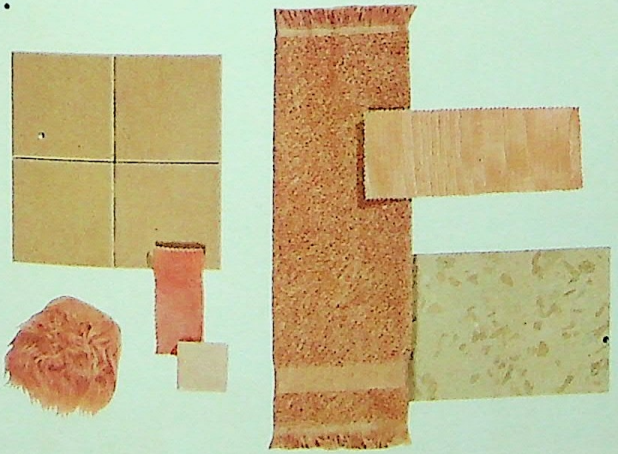
In architecture, elegance is the supreme French quality, and in this adaptation of a French provincial house, elegance and dignity are visible in every line, even though the house is small. The split-level construction, with the kitchen and dining area on the ground floor, is typically French. The living room and study are at street level and have cathedral ceilings. The bedrooms open from a balcony. The elegant outer quality of the house is admirably expressed in the painted white bricks, the tall shutters, and the interesting low iron grillwork at each of the windows. For indoors, Venetian pink with shades of ivory, beige, and walnut was the chosen color scheme. The gentle curves of the French provincial furniture harmonize delightfully with these feminine tones, and the walnut wood is dark enough to give a feeling of solidity.

The light fixtures in almost every room are highly decorative. They are all of French design, but most of them were manufactured and can be purchased in this country.

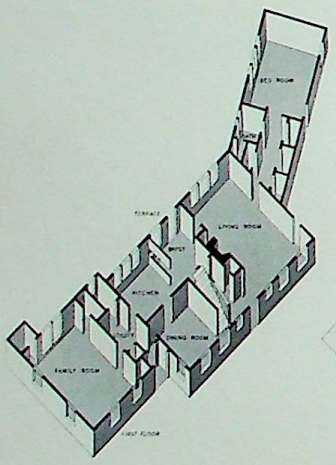
THE STUDY. The polished simplicity of the vinyl cork floor furnishes a warm base for the relatively ornate French furniture. The secretary centered against the large screened window is a striking example of French provincial furniture, typical in its delicate detail and strong design. On the right wall, a spinet stands between two chests, and above it built-in bookcases rise to the ceiling.

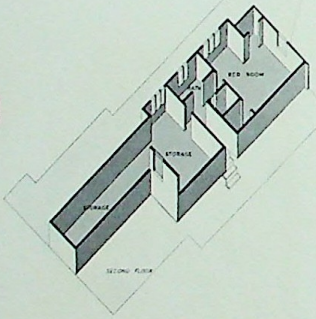
THE KITCHEN. A sliding glass door directly behind the snack counter admits a flood of light into this well planned kitchen. The brick wall over the work units adds to the country atmosphere, and the blue tole light is an elegant added detail. A document print used as a wallpaper over the cabinets and a shirred fabric framed in the doors are simple ways to repeat the French provincial theme.

THE BEDROOM. The delicate canopied beds are unmistakably European in design, and the valance boards as well as the scalloped bedspreads show a proper feeling for French detail. The white dust ruffles which emphasize the stark white walls might have been borrowed from a French farmhouse. The floral striped draperies and the upholstery on the chaise are glazed cotton.



THE BATHROOM. The round vanity basin in the bathroom was designed to fit a three-way mirror that extends to the ceiling. The front is a perfectly fitting French provincial console with a built-in back, cut to fit the mirror. The round basin was sunk into the console top and a marble lid cut to fit. The result is both decorative and useful. Brass bath fixtures, a delicate chandelier, and a caned-back corner chair leave no doubt that this room has its origin in a French country house.





CHINA TRADE COLONIAL HOUSE

Designed by Royal Barry Wills,
Cohasset, Massachusetts

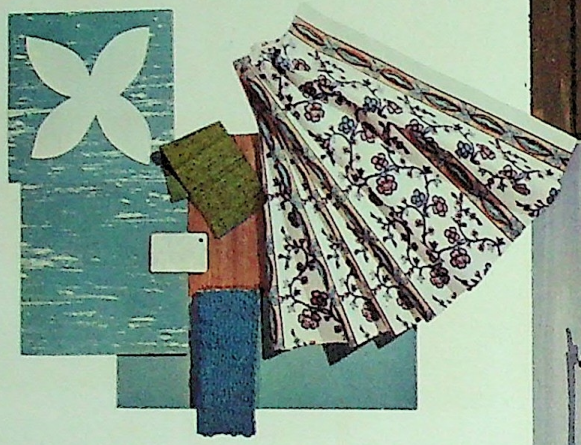
($50,000)

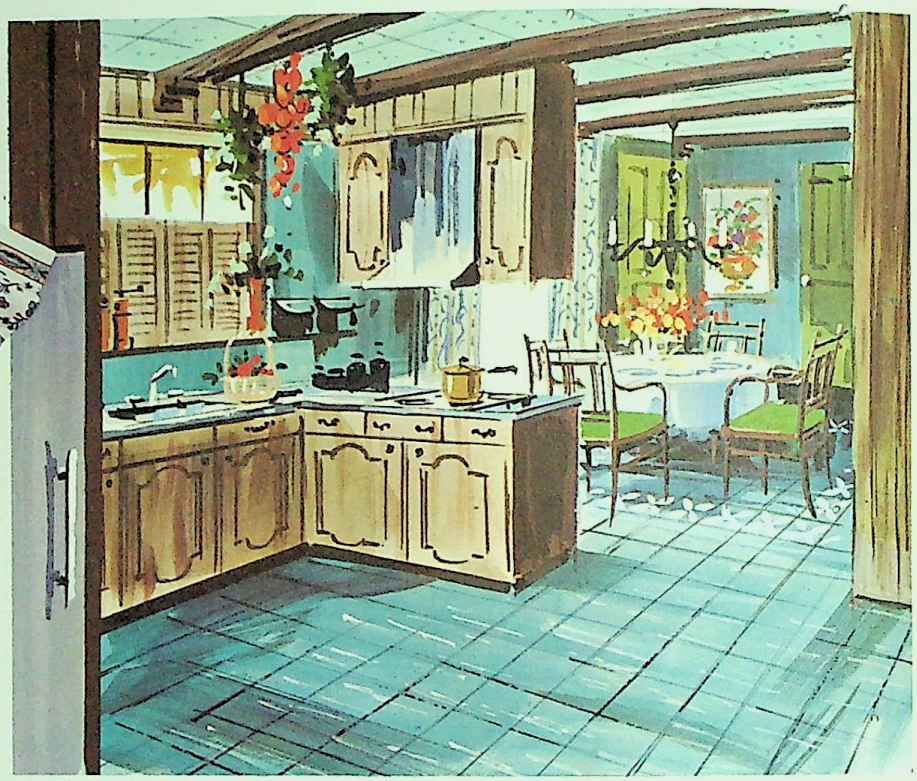
To most of us, when we think of furniture, the word Colonial conveys an impression of austere unupholstered chairs and settees, and wide pine-board floors. This plain pine furniture is known as Primitive Colonial, but there also exists a more luxurious expression of the period, known as "China Trade Colonial." Many of the early settlers made their own furniture with their own tools, and the results admirably expressed their rugged way of life; but certain families maintained a richer way of living, mostly the families of ship captains who brought back furniture and fabrics, china and silver, from across the seas. To establish this feeling of Colonial luxury, all of the draperies as well as the upholstery fabrics in this house are Chinese in motif and carry out the primary color scheme used throughout the interior. Chinese blues with tones of gold and gray combine with a generous walnut woodwork and shining cork floors.

All of the windows on the first floor are Colonial in style. Distinction is gained with their larger-than-normal size to give light and a feeling of modernity to the rooms.

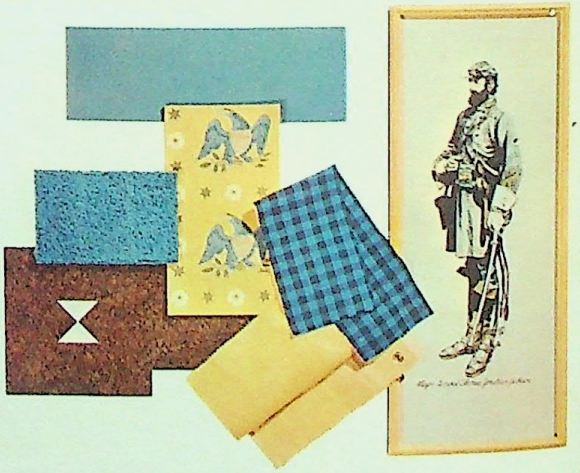
THE FAMILY ROOM is casual in feeling. The decorative black iron stove and the well scaled circular rug add just the right homey note. Open bookshelves over the low chest add further warmth and informality. The table in the center of the spacious window is an invitation to games or relaxation. Notice the well balanced placement of the couch opposite the bookshelves.

THE DINING ROOM is formal. A delicately designed crystal chandelier establishes the proper mood. The ceiling-high cupboard placed between two windows is the focal point of the room. The draperies are a fine quality cotton rep printed in a wide-striped pattern of light and dark blues with taupe. The furniture is Queen Anne and the vinyl cork floor has been custom inlaid.





THE KITCHEN is walnut paneled to match the stained beams in the ceiling which continue through the breakfast room at the right. Hanging cabinets and a counter that extends around each wall supply a generous amount of storage and work space. The kitchen walls and the floor are tuned to the blues in the dining-room draperies.



THE UPSTAIRS BEDROOM. Here bookshelves line walls that lead to the window. Colorful prints are hung on the oblong panels of the closet doors. A desk with a hanging lamp is set next to the window, and the four-poster bed carries a small canopy. The gold-colored upholstery brightens the wing chair, and the two small blue area rugs provide a rich contrast to the brewn tone of the floor.

THE GROUND-FLOOR BEDROOM is a completely separated unit—ideal as a guest room. The richly canopied bed is placed opposite a wall-wide window with luxurious Austrian blinds. The draperies have a floral detail with a Chinese motif. The twin wing chairs are upholstered in a soft biscuit tone to harmonize with the matelassé fabric on the bed.

FLOOR PLANS AND FURNITURE PLACEMENT

with elevations

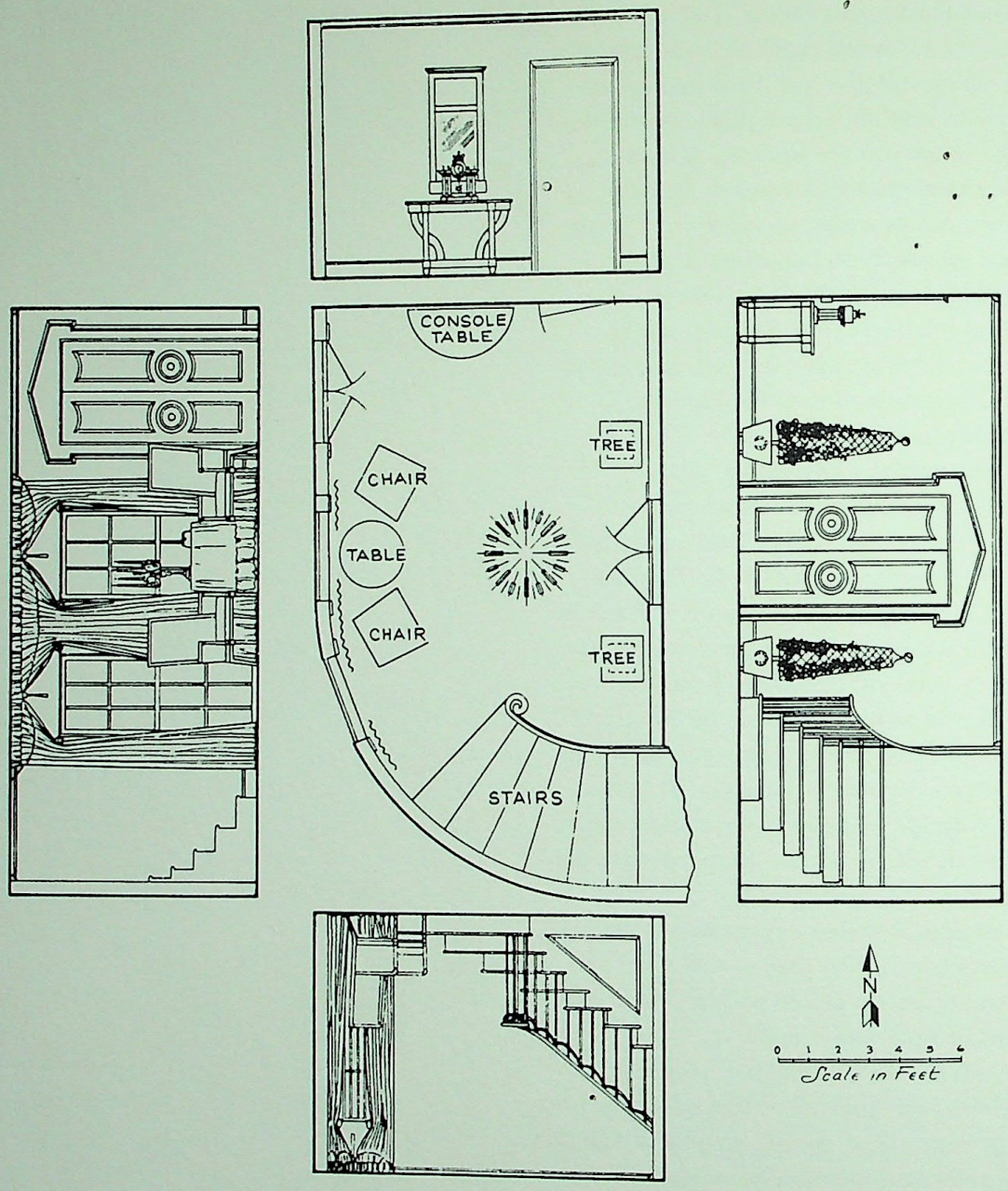
NOTE: In the following diagrams the walls are marked North, South, East, and West. All working units such as baths, toilets, and kitchens, have been labeled for easy identification. The center square, or floor plan, shows the furniture arranged for the best flow of traffic. The surrounding panels, or elevations, indicate the size and positioning of furnishings, windows, doors, lighting fixtures, etc.

Since most of our illustrations cannot show an entire room, on the following pages we have printed a series of plans which will give you accurate over-all floor measurements and the proper positioning of the furniture. If the house you are working on does not correspond exactly to the dimensions shown on the plan, they can be scaled up or down to retain the balance and symmetry so important in good interior decoration. If it is difficult for you to visualize the wall treatment, the diagrams can be traced on another piece of paper, cut out, and folded to stand erect. The relationship of the furniture to the floor plan will then be clear.

To insure the best furniture placement, do as experienced decorators do. Start with accurate measurements of the area to be furnished and of the furniture you are planning to place in it. Then take two large sheets of different colored paper. Cut out the floor and walls to scale on one sheet, and cut out the furniture units, to scale, on the other. Move them around for fit as well as taste. Arrange the furniture units for balance so that, for example, the heavy pieces are not all on one side of the room. If your plan is crowded, decide what you have to eliminate to make a harmonious whole. If your arrangement is too bare, more furniture will be required.

When your floor plan is settled to your satisfaction, give your mover a copy of the plan so that your furniture can be accurately placed without unnecessary loss of time and money.

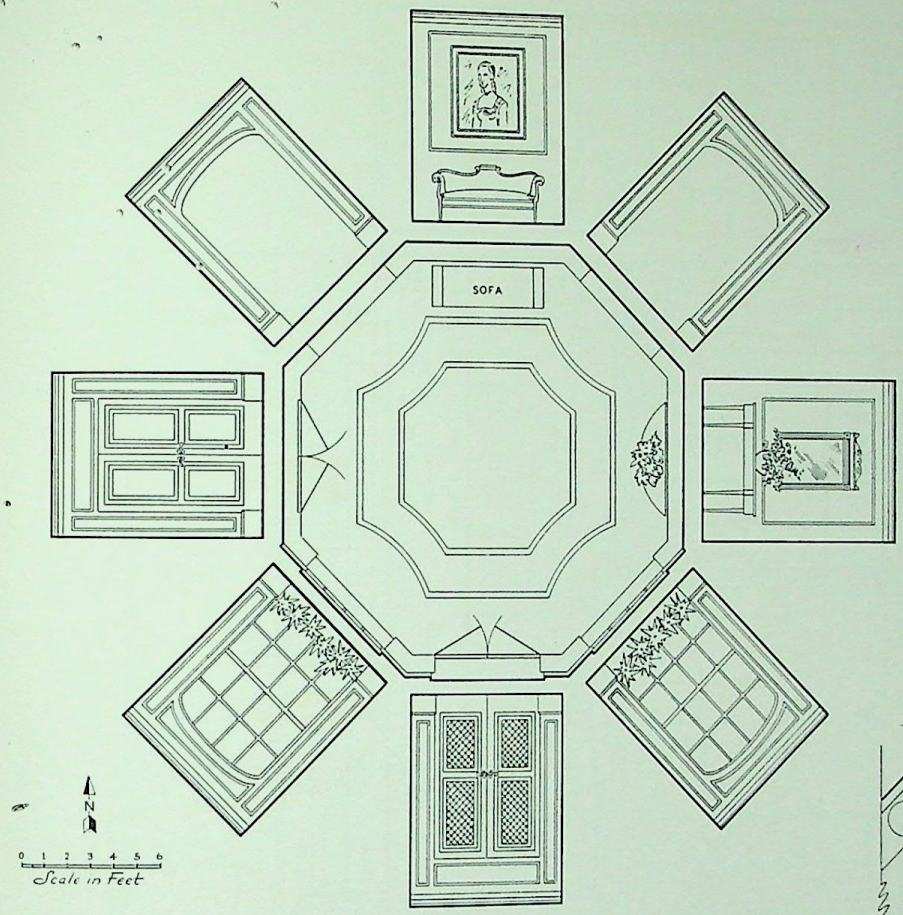
In addition, for your own personal use, keep a notebook which lists the dimensions and color schemes of each room in your house. Actual samples of material and splashes of color with detailed notes of where each was purchased should be inserted as your furnishing progresses. Then, if you have to replace or match any article, your shopping will be immensely simplified.

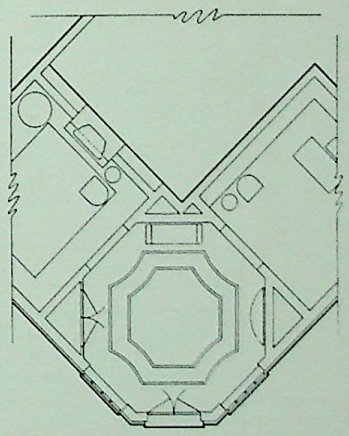


FLOOR PLAN 1

DIRECTOIRE ENTRANCE . . . page 13

The West wall with two windows and a door provides a focal point for the furniture. The South wall is filled by the circular staircase. The East wall balances the West wall by a center door to the living room flanked by heavy formal plants. The East wall hides the clothes closet. The floor plan indicates the stylized inlay in the flooring centered on the formal double door.

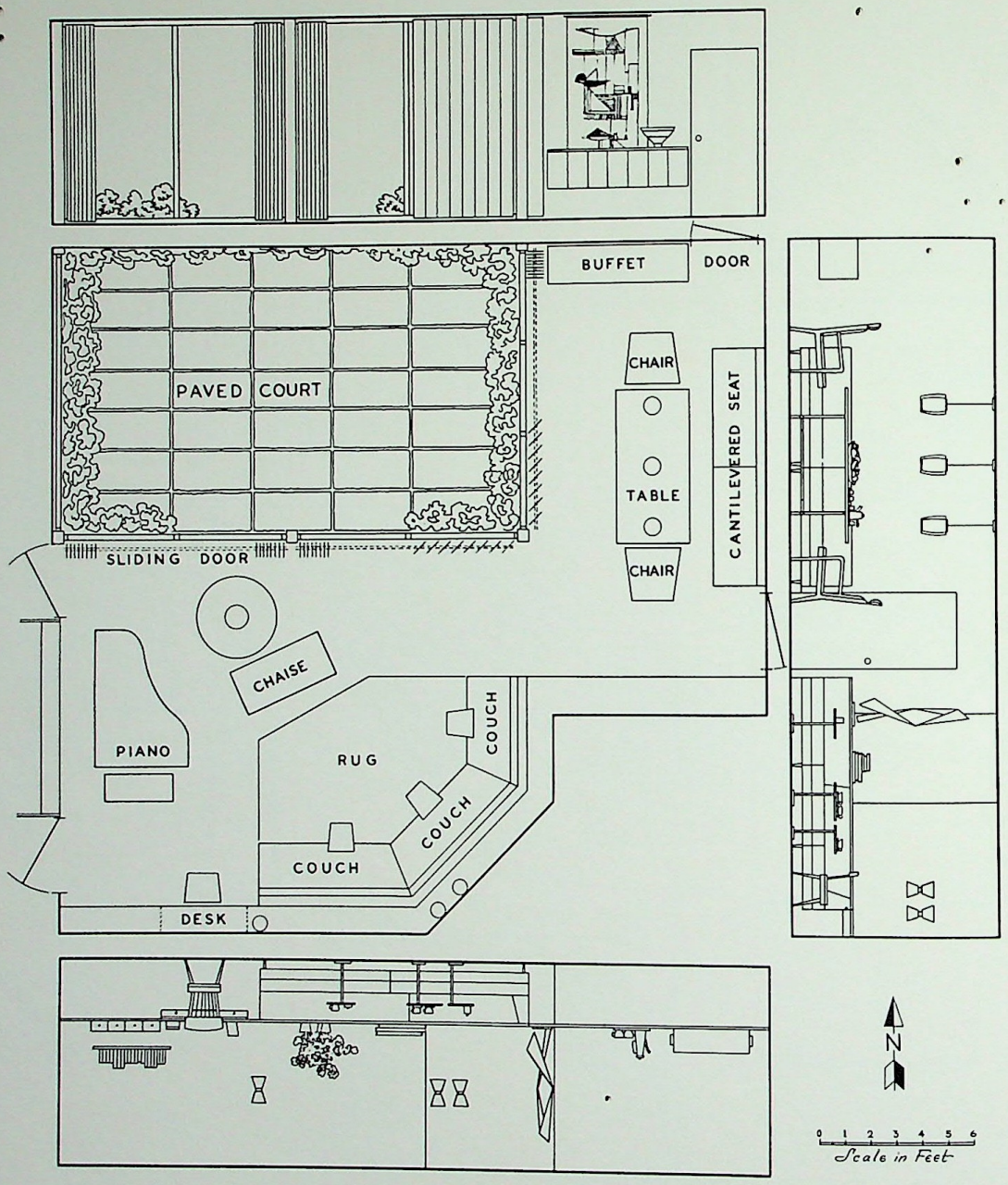




FLOOR PLAN 2

REGENCY HALLWAY . . . page 17

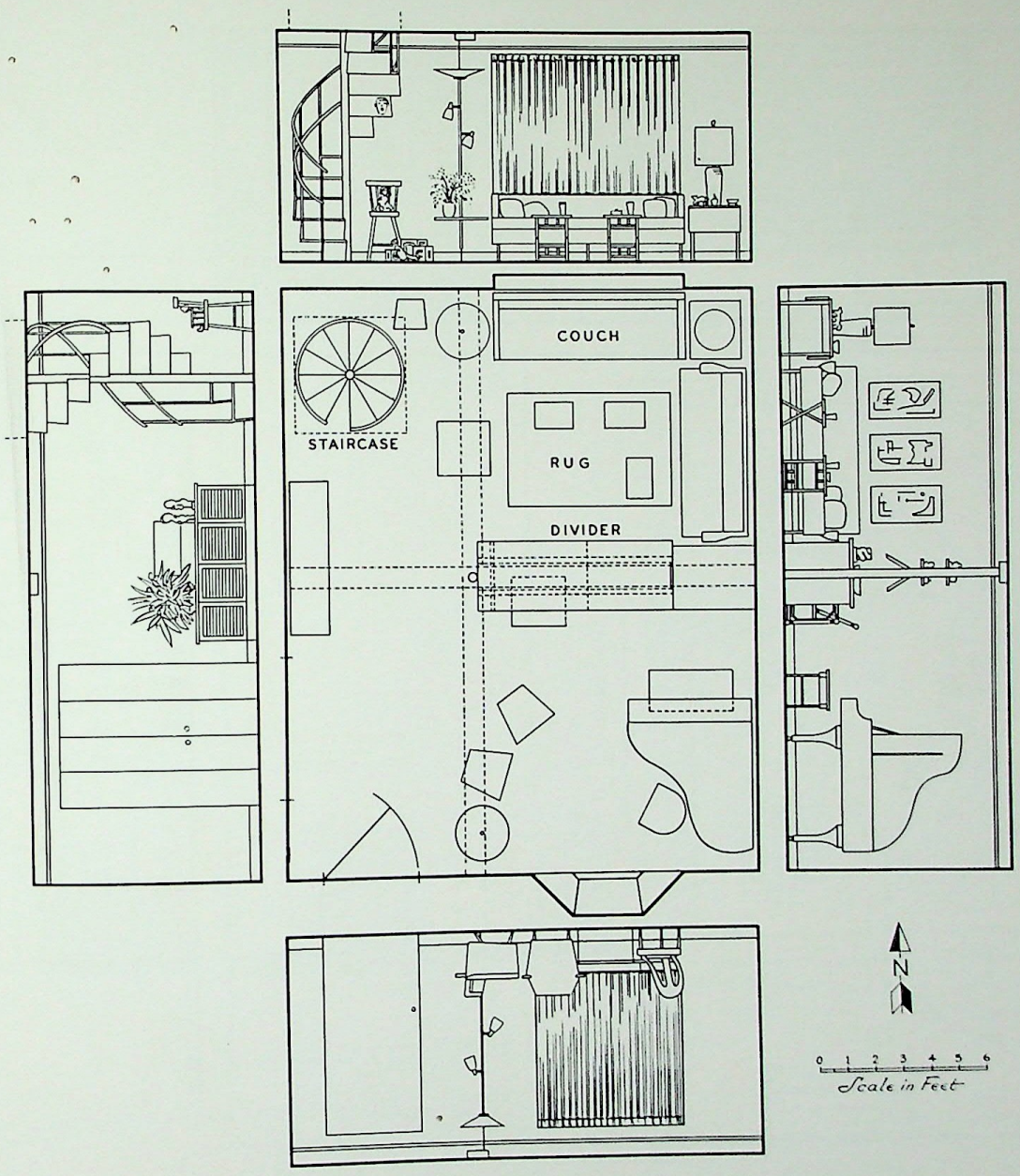
This floor plan shows an unusual octagonal hallway. The house is extremely formal, set most ingeniously by the architect in a square plot of land. All eight walls of the hallway are beautifully balanced. The windows have been placed opposite open archways which lead into the living room and library indicated on the drawing at the right. The front door faces an impressive arrangement of furniture. The design of the flooring dramatizes the unusual shape of the room.



FLOOR PLAN 3

OPEN OR CLOSED COURTYARD . . . page 24

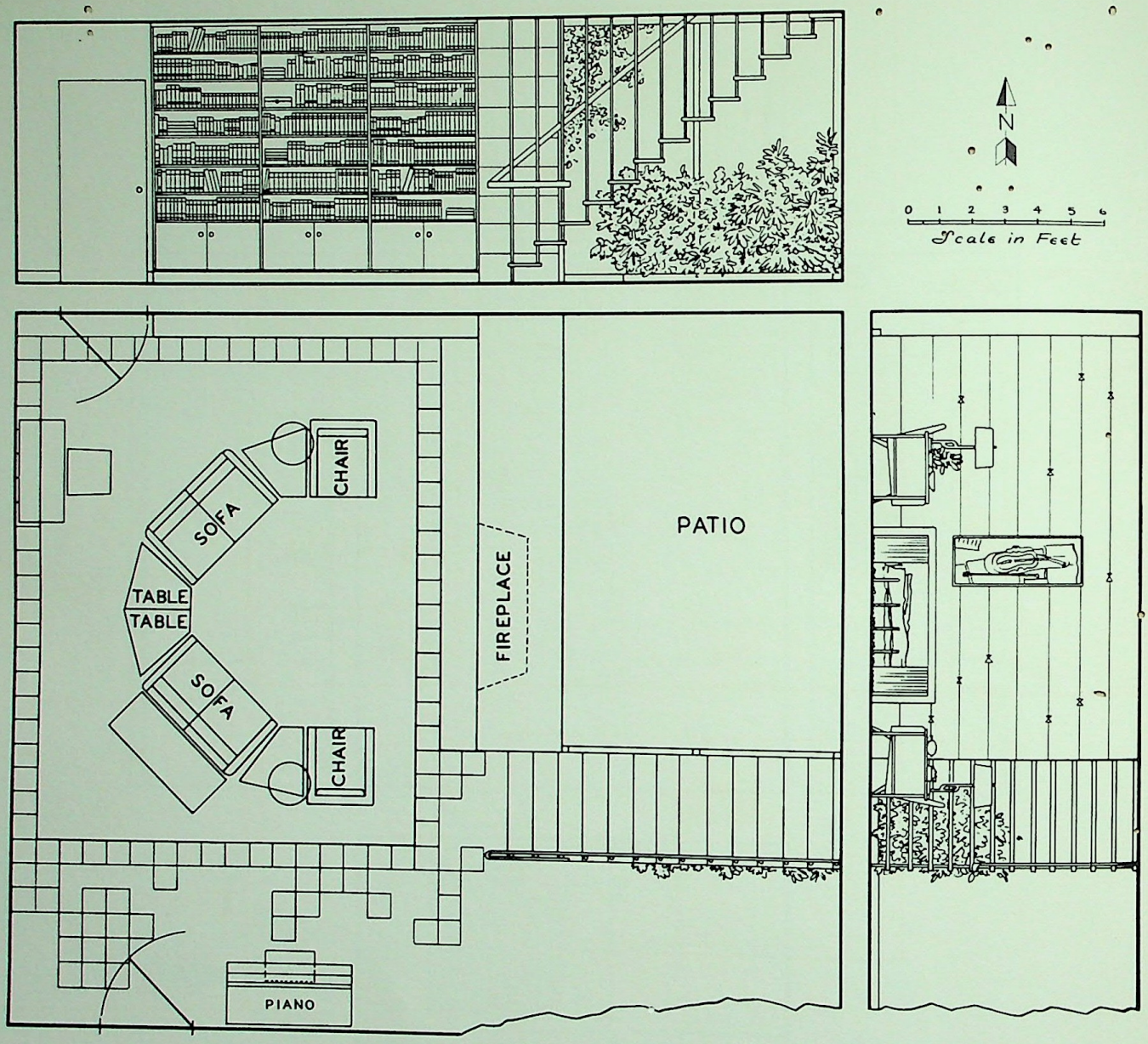
The North wall which faces a patio has full-length sliding glass doors and sliding vertical panels that close off the patio when required. The long alcove at the right of the patio is used as a dining space with a bench built along the East wall. The irregularly angled South wall inspired the unusual placement of the furniture. The floor plan shows the location of the grand piano balancing the dining room furniture.



FLOOR PLAN 4

WHERE WALLS CAME DOWN . . . page 25

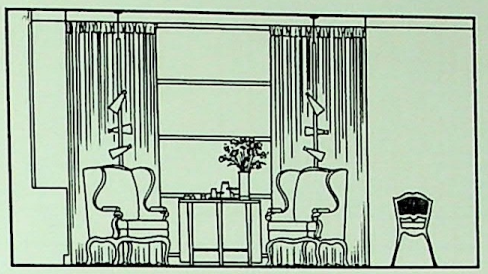
The floor plan shows the division of the rooms before the walls were taken down to make one large living area out of a hallway and two small parlors. The Northwest corner of the diagram shows the position of the circular staircase. The crossed dotted lines show where the walls have been removed and replaced by sturdy ceiling beams. At the lineal intersection, a three-inch column was installed for additional support. This column makes one end of the room divider, extending from the East wall, and provides ample shelf and counter space.

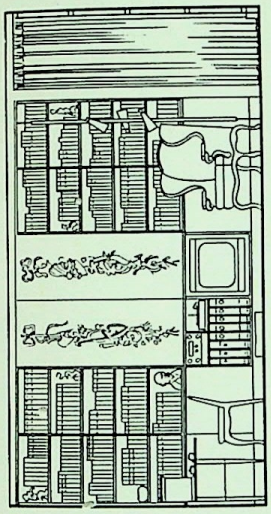


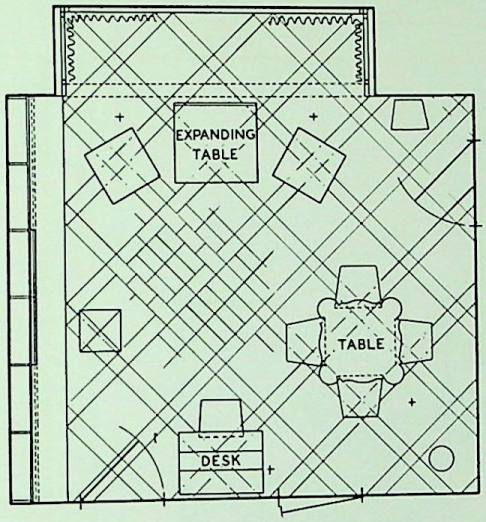
FLOOR PLAN 5

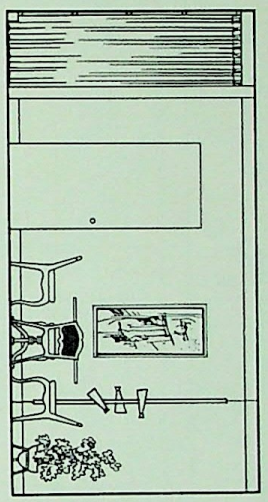
THE STAIRCASE LIVING ROOM . . . page 29

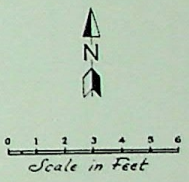
The North wall is solid bookshelves with cabinets below. The West wall (not shown) has floor-to-ceiling windows and space for a desk. The South wall makes a backdrop for the piano and also features a full-length glass door. The wood-paneled East wall encloses a floor-level fireplace. The floor plan shows the interesting grouping of furniture around the fireplace. The tile floor is laid in a random pattern in front of the piano and forms a contrasting border for the area rug.

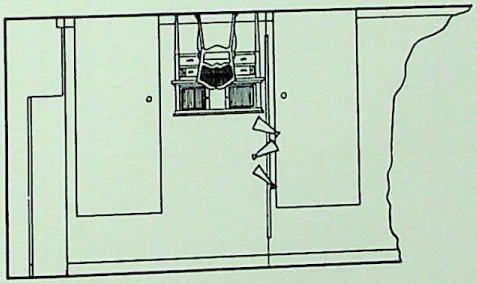


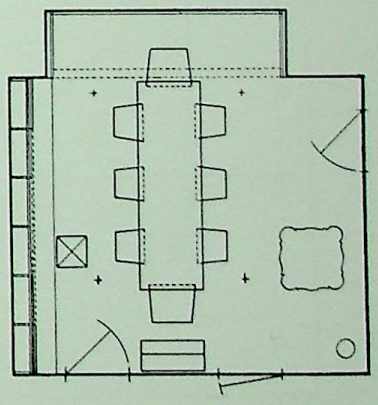








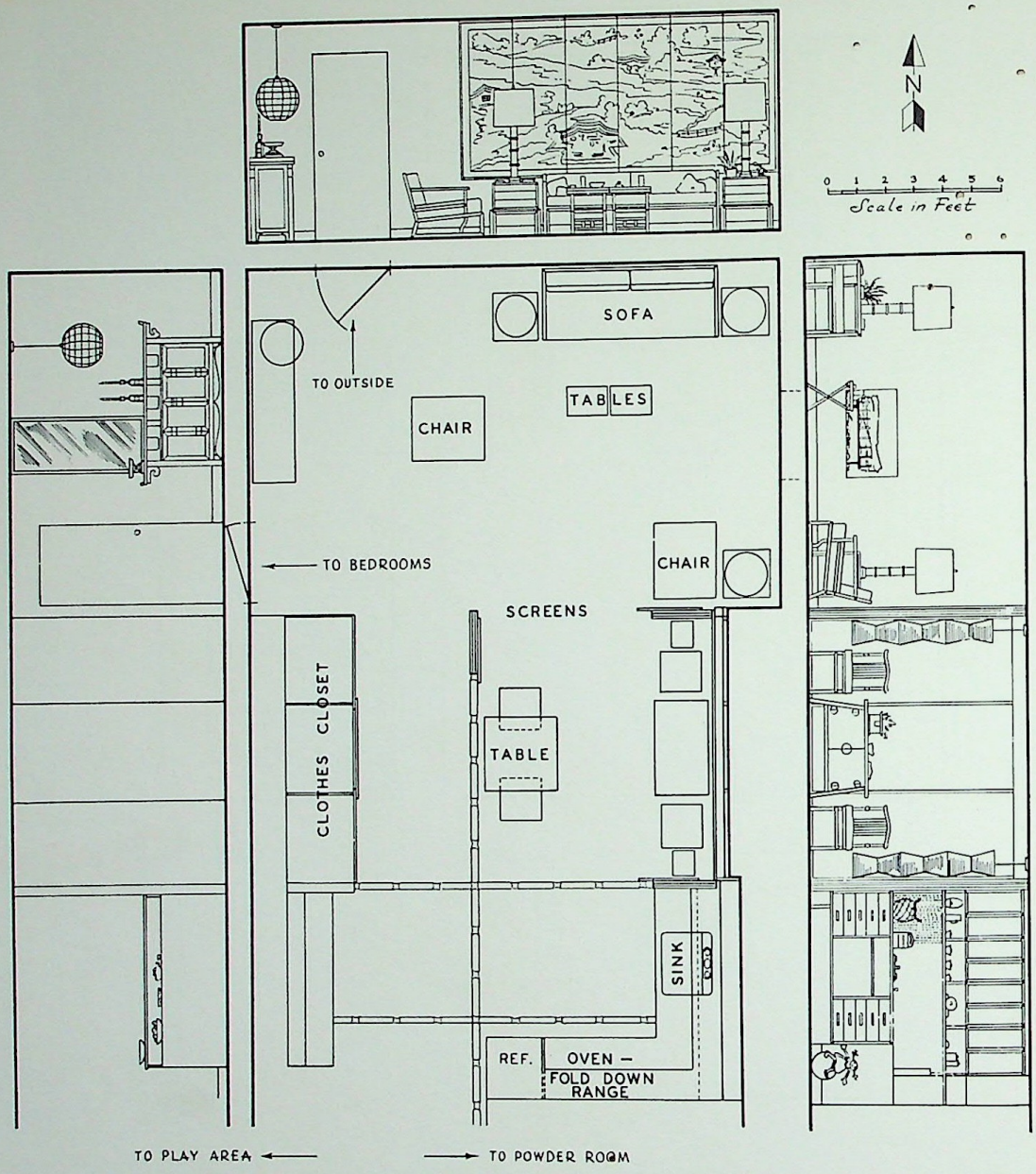




FLOOR PLAN 6

A DOUBLE-PURPOSE ROOM . . . page 40

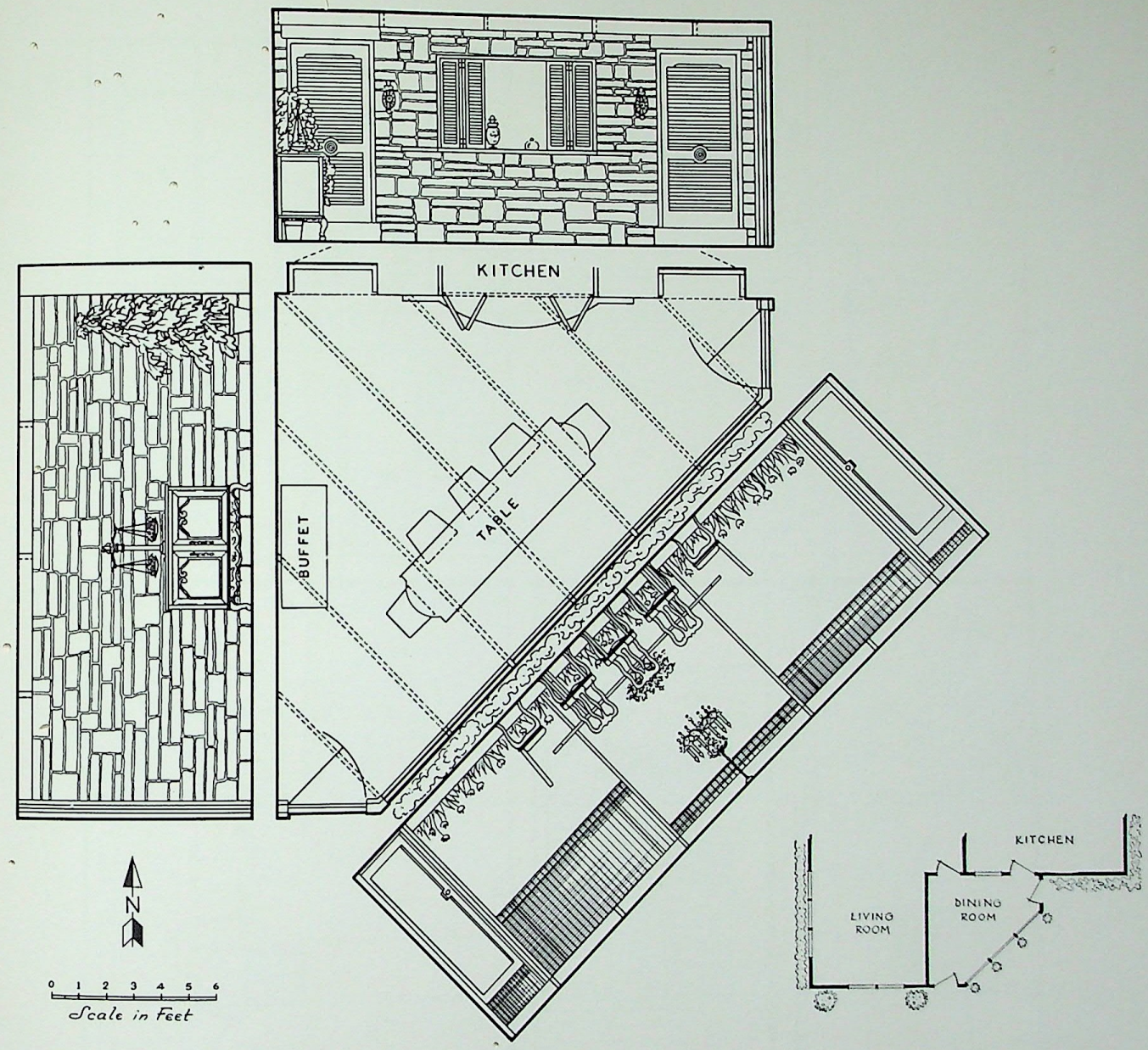
In this reconstruction, the North wall has a floor-to-ceiling window which replaces the original standard-size window. The West wall is the key to the dual purpose of the room. The wallpapered panels in the center of the bookshelves slide back to reveal shelves for china and cutlery. The cabinet doors can be closed to conceal the television and records space. The doors and desk are centered against the South wall to balance the table in front of the window. The floor plan at the right shows how the dining table unfolds to seat eight.



FLOOR PLAN 7

FROM THE JAPANESE . . . page 41

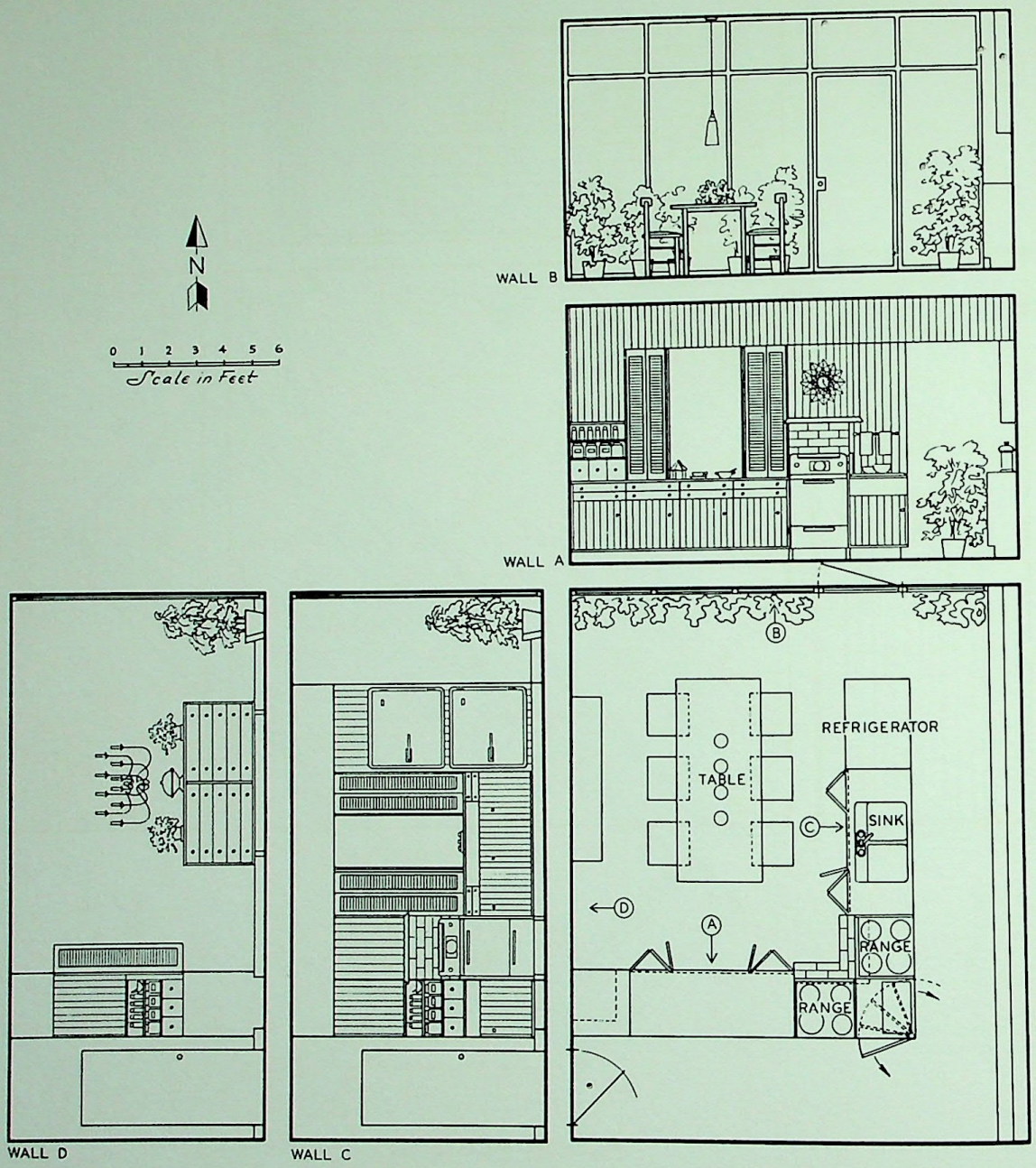
The North wall features a handsome screen which serves as a background for the living room furniture. The West wall allows for closet space and a door. The South wall holds the cooking units and the refrigerator. The East wall provides space for the sink and a large picture window. The floor plan shows the outline of the ceiling track on which the shoji screen slides to separate the kitchen from the living room. It also shows the inlaid bamboo design of the floor.



FLOOR PLAN 8

ADD A DIAGONAL DINING ROOM . . . page 44

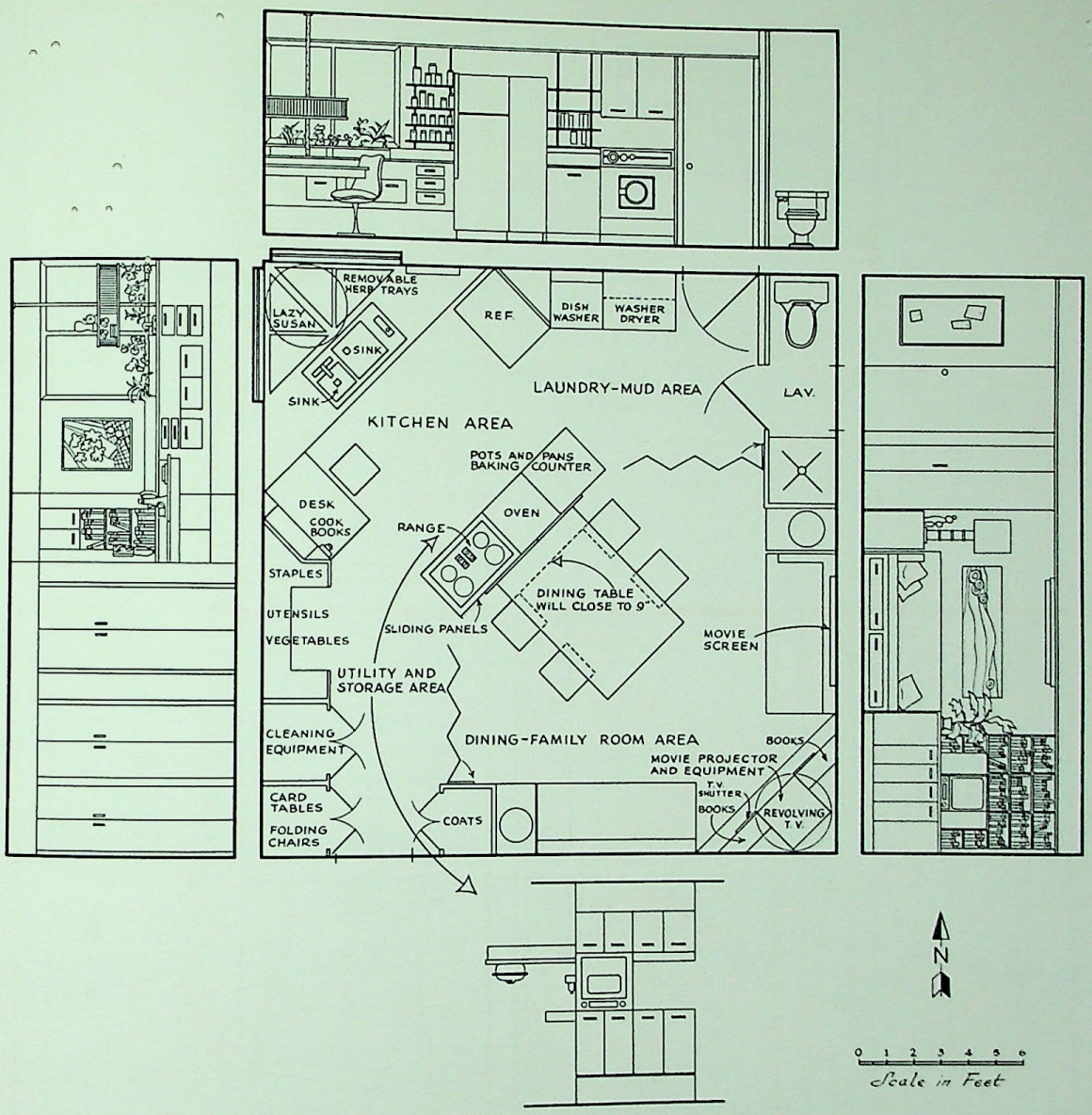
The North wall is the old rear wall of the house. A door at the right leads to the kitchen; a second door at the left leads to the living room. The old kitchen has been converted into a convenient pass-through counter. The West wall is the original outside wall of the living room ell. The diagonal wall is solid glass with table and chairs arranged to take advantage of the view. The black and white checkerboard floor was laid diagonally to emphasize the shape of the room.



FLOOR PLAN 9

WRAP-AROUND KITCHEN . . . page 55

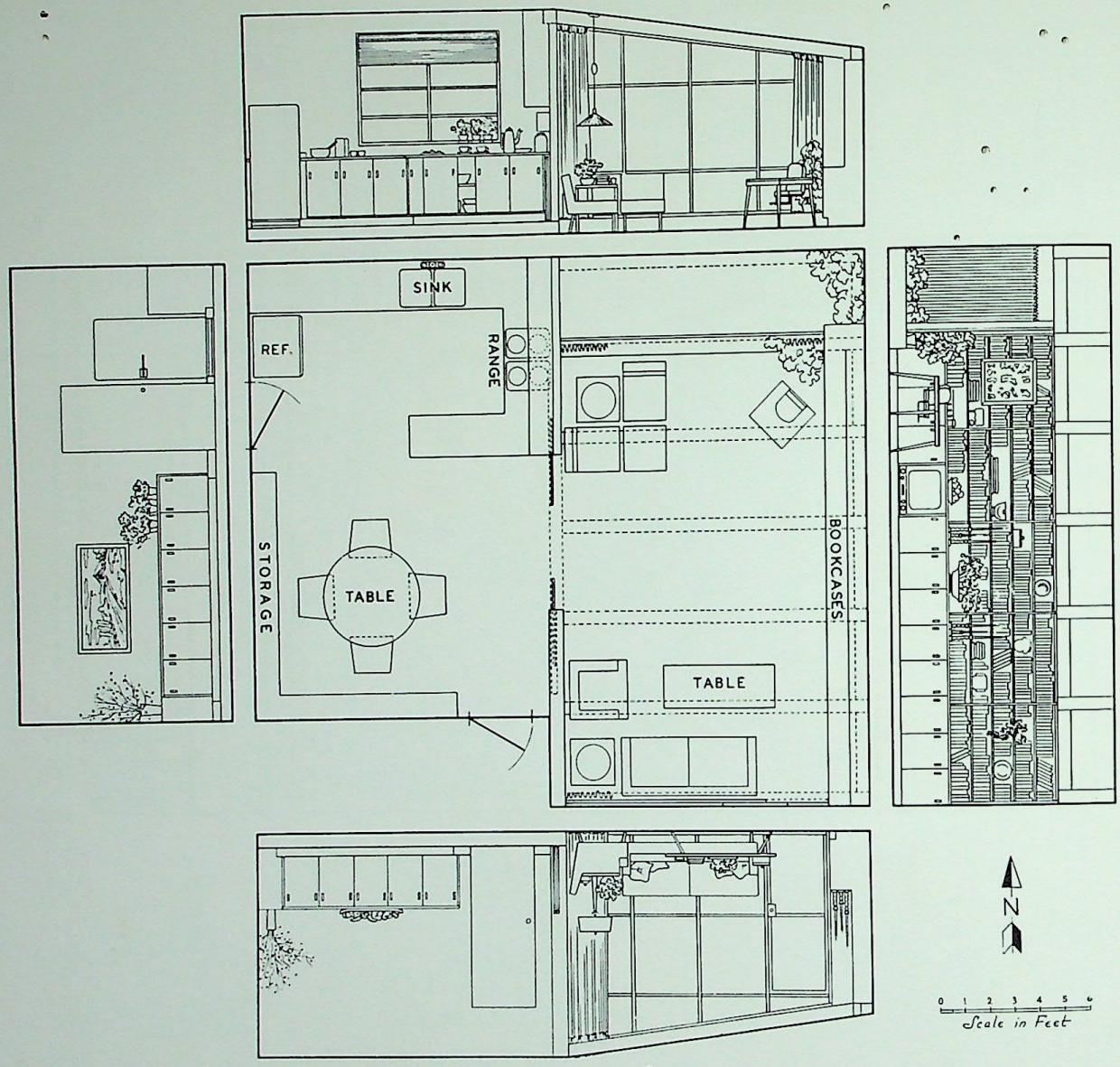
The diagram shows the position of the divider that now makes a dining room and kitchen out of the old kitchen. The dining room ceiling was lowered to make the room cosier, and counter space and cooking units were built into the divider. Louvered shutters from counter to ceiling can be opened or closed as desired. When closed, they shut off the kitchen completely; when open, they allow easy pass-through space for food and dishes.



FLOOR PLAN 10

THE DIAGONAL KITCHEN . . . page 60

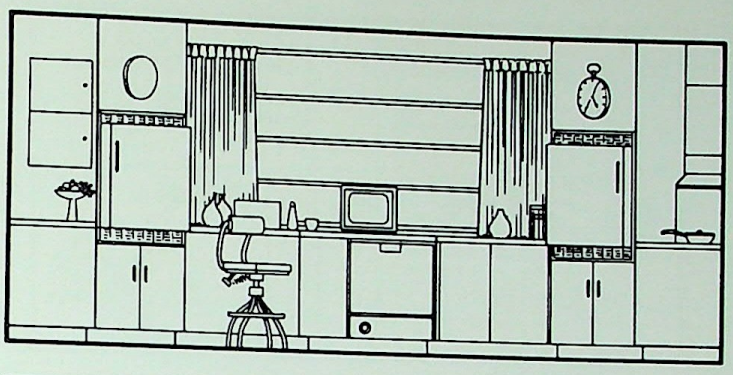
The North wall accommodates a toilet, a washer-dryer, a dishwasher, and refrigerator units. A double sink is set diagonally against the left corner. The West wall supports one end of the diagonal sink counter and provides desk and utility space. The East wall has space for furnishings for the living room area on the other side of the diagonal work area. The floor plan shows the diagonal island that divides the kitchen. The oven in the center has a hood ventilator. Above the counter at the left, cabinets extend to the ceiling. The range has space beneath for a tea or serving cart. On the other side of the island, there is room for a television set.

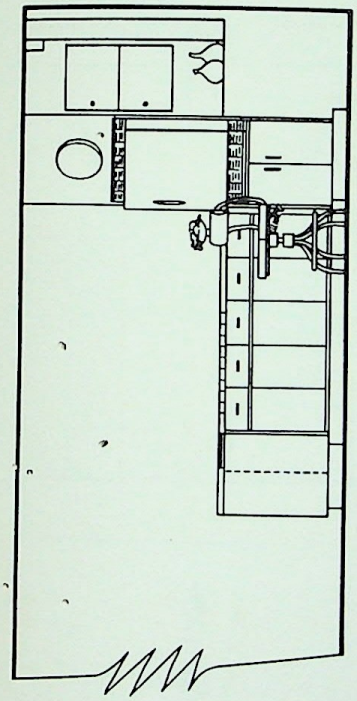


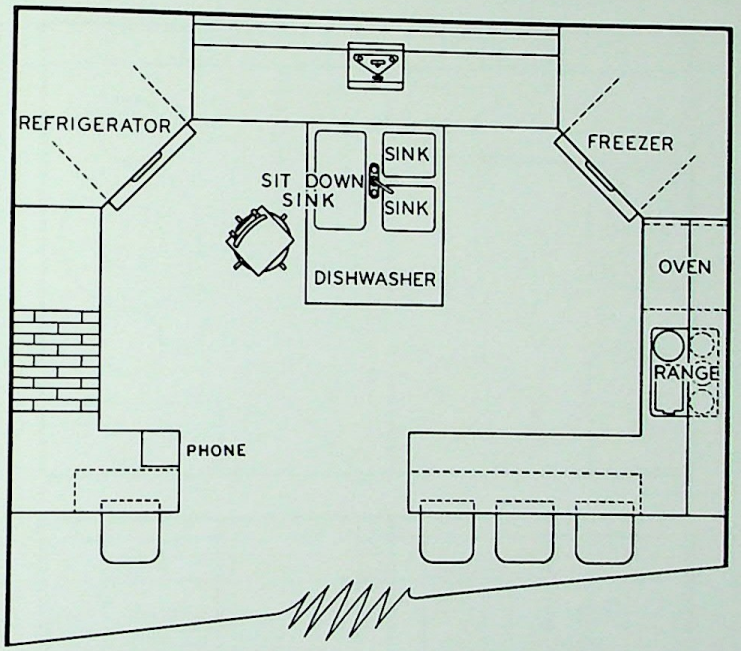
FLOOR PLAN 11

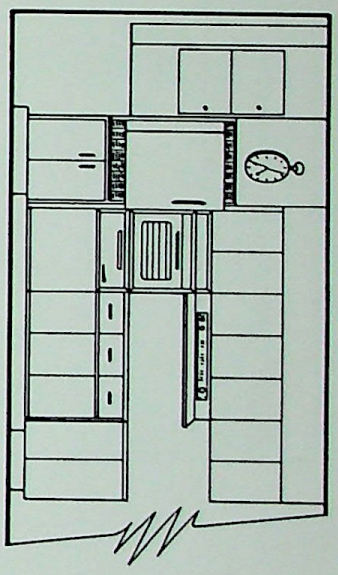
KITCHEN JOINS GARAGE . . . page 64

The North wall is now filled by a picture window which replaces the old garage door. The cooking area is a six-inch step-up along the same wall. The center wall which divides the living area from the kitchen accommodates the cooking stove. The West wall provides space for a refrigerator and a row of cabinets which can be used for a buffet or dining table. The South wall handles the divider wall with lounge furniture at the right and cabinets at the left. The East wall is filled with bookshelves, storage space, a television set, and hi-fi equipment.

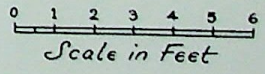








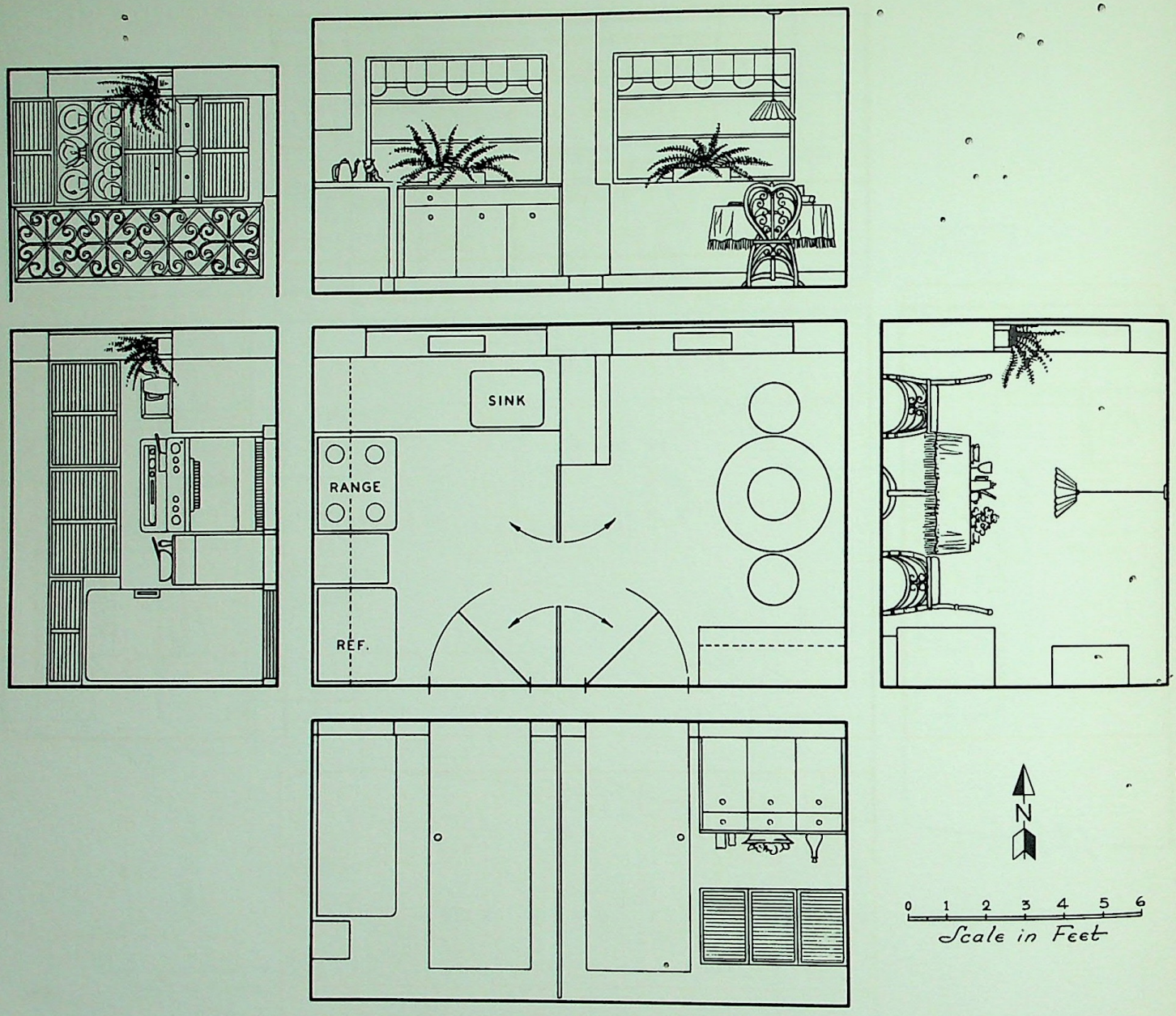
FAMILY ROOM AREA



FLOOR PLAN 12

GIVE ME A BACKSAVING SINK . . . page 66

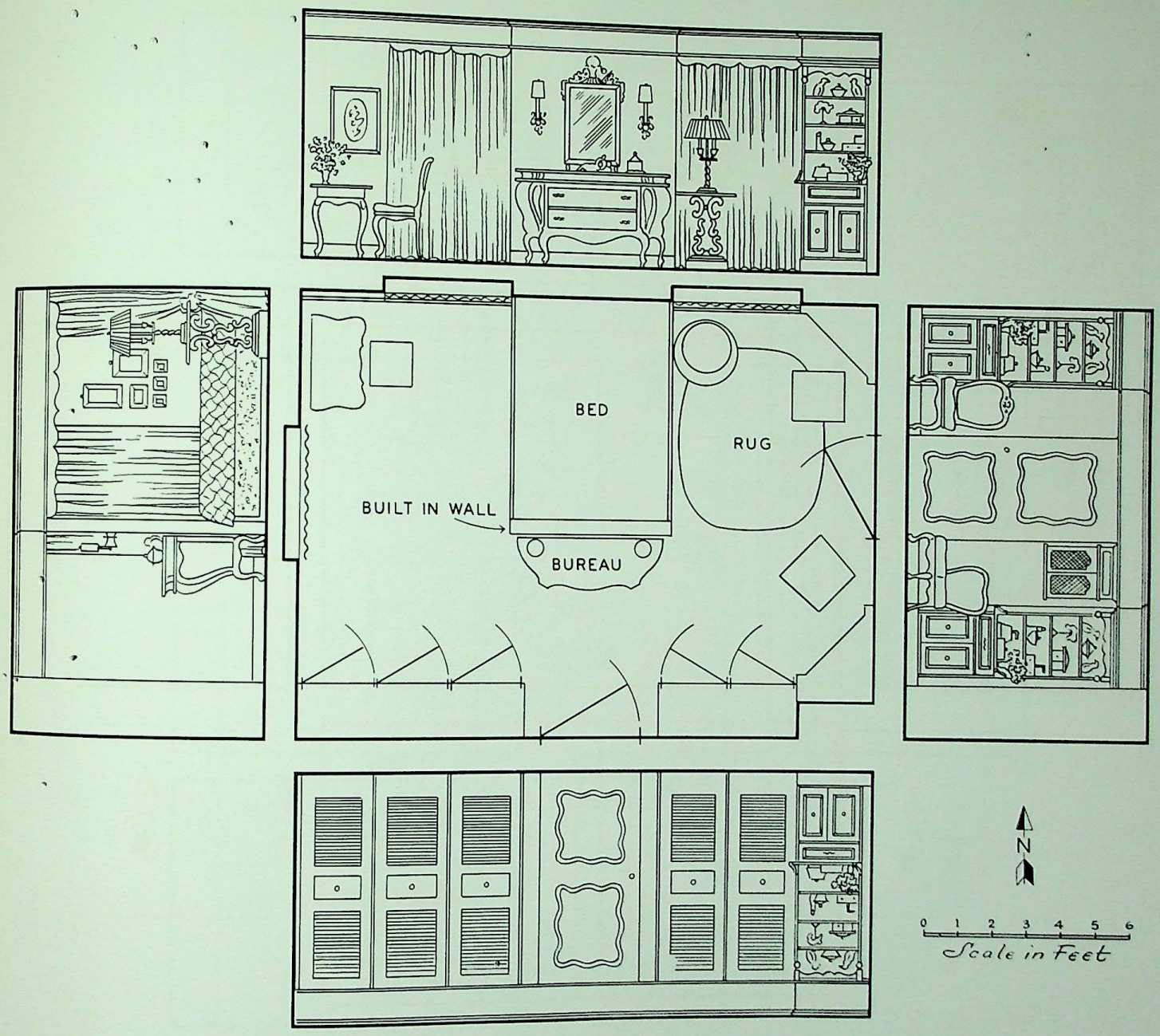
The North wall is a window wall with a built-in broiler and a baking oven set diagonally at either end. The work area, with its double sink and comfortable stool, is centered off the North wall. The West wall provides space for the refrigerator. A dough board is built into the counter. The East wall contains a deep freezer and a range unit. The South wall features counter space for mealtime snacks on the right of the entrance and a family control center on the left complete with telephone and file drawers.



FLOOR PLAN 13

POLKA-DOT KITCHEN . . . page 69

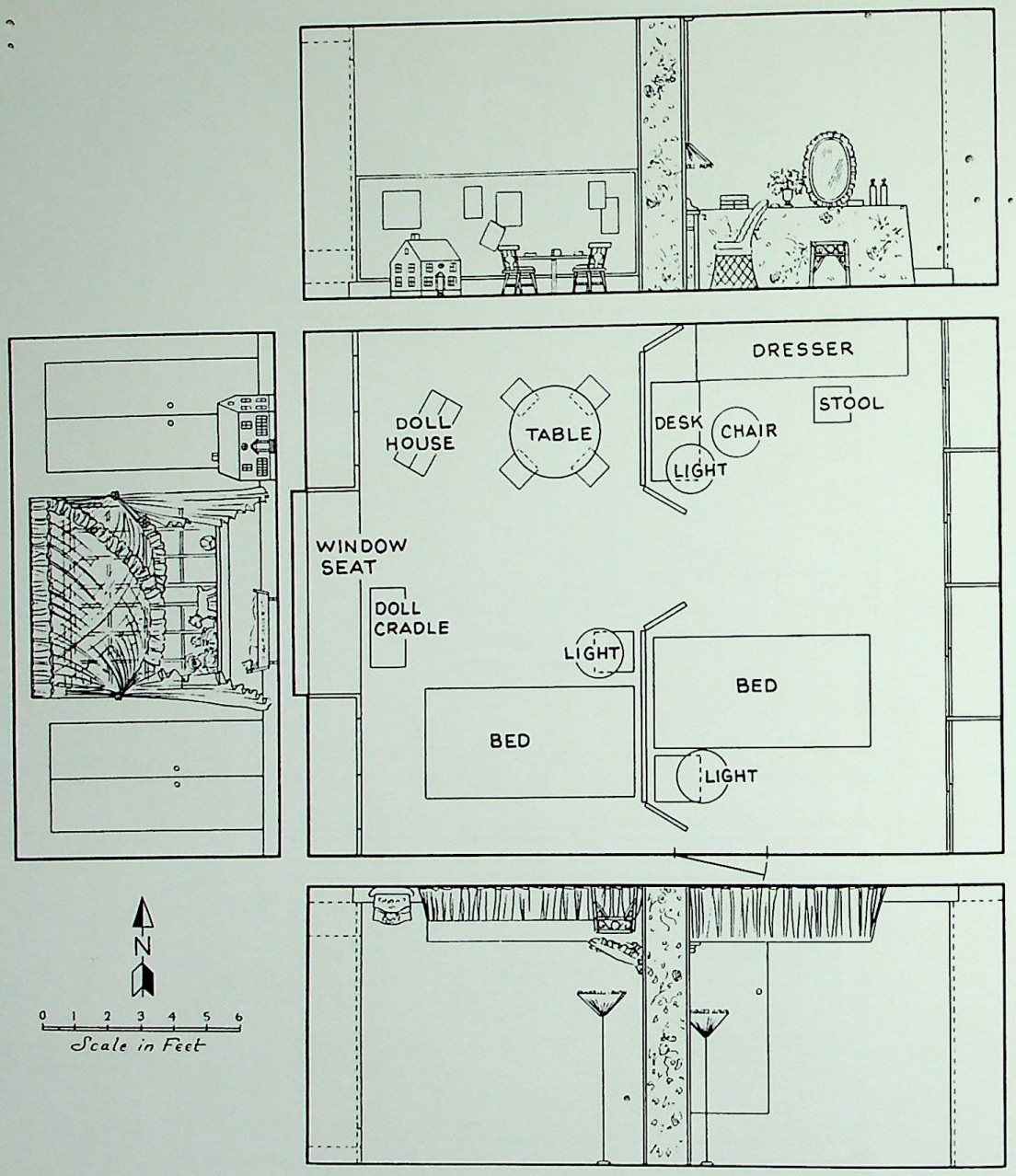
The North wall with a sink at the left is cut in two by a floor-to-ceiling arrangement of chest on chest. The decorative screen continues and completes the division. The South wall broken by two doors uses a twin screen divider to separate the dining area from the kitchen. The West wall houses the work units with cabinets built above them. The East wall serves as a backdrop for well chosen furniture.



FLOOR PLAN 14

HOW TO GAIN WALL SPACE . . . page 79

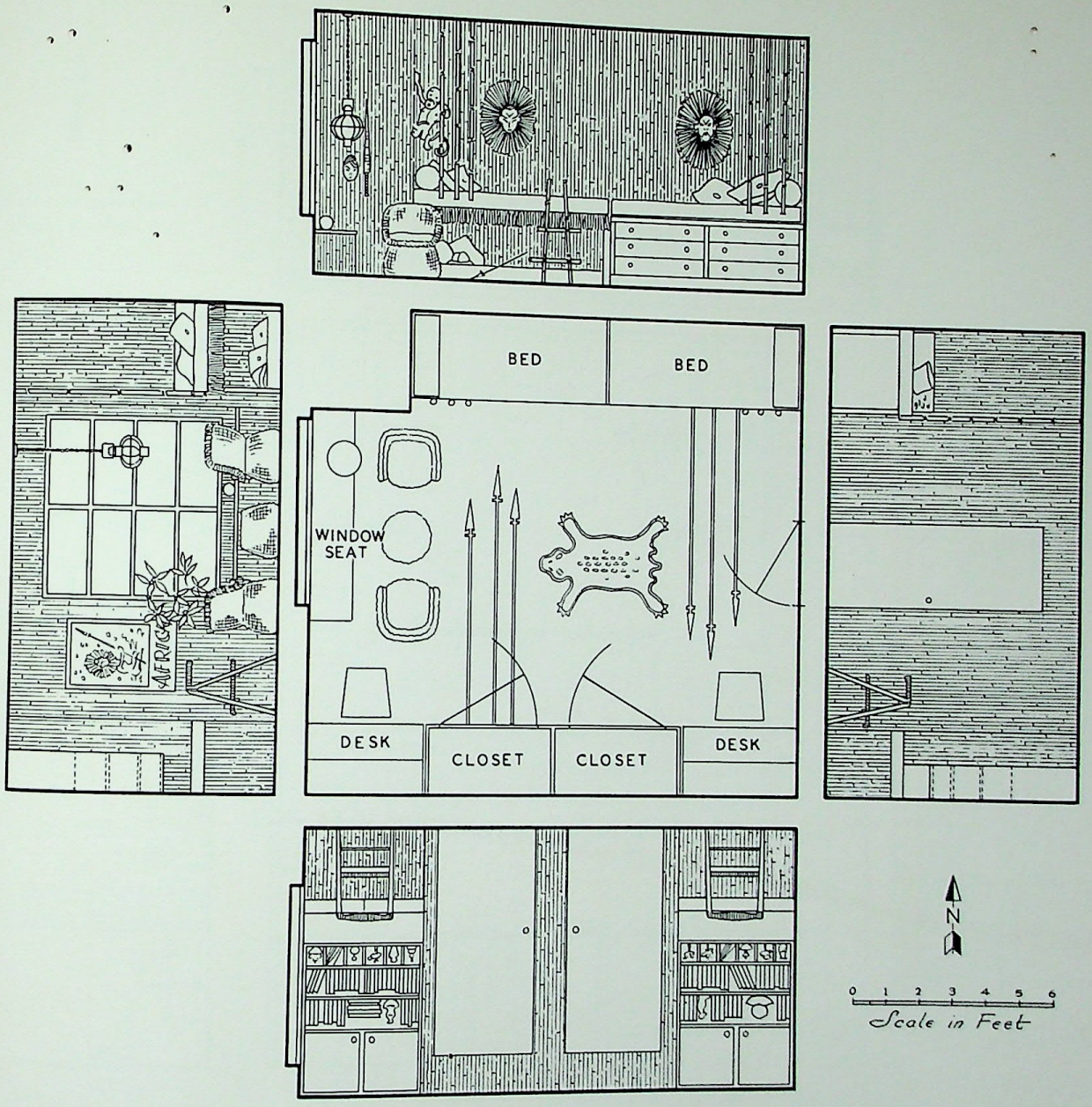
The North wall holds two windows with a bed centered between them. The bed is concealed by the false wall extending from the floor to ceiling behind the chest. The South wall is a solid bank of closets with louvered doors broken by a center door leading into the hall. The East wall features corner cupboards at either end. All the woodwork is curved and scalloped in keeping with the French provincial style of the interior.



FLOOR PLAN 15

SHARING A BEDROOM . . . page 81

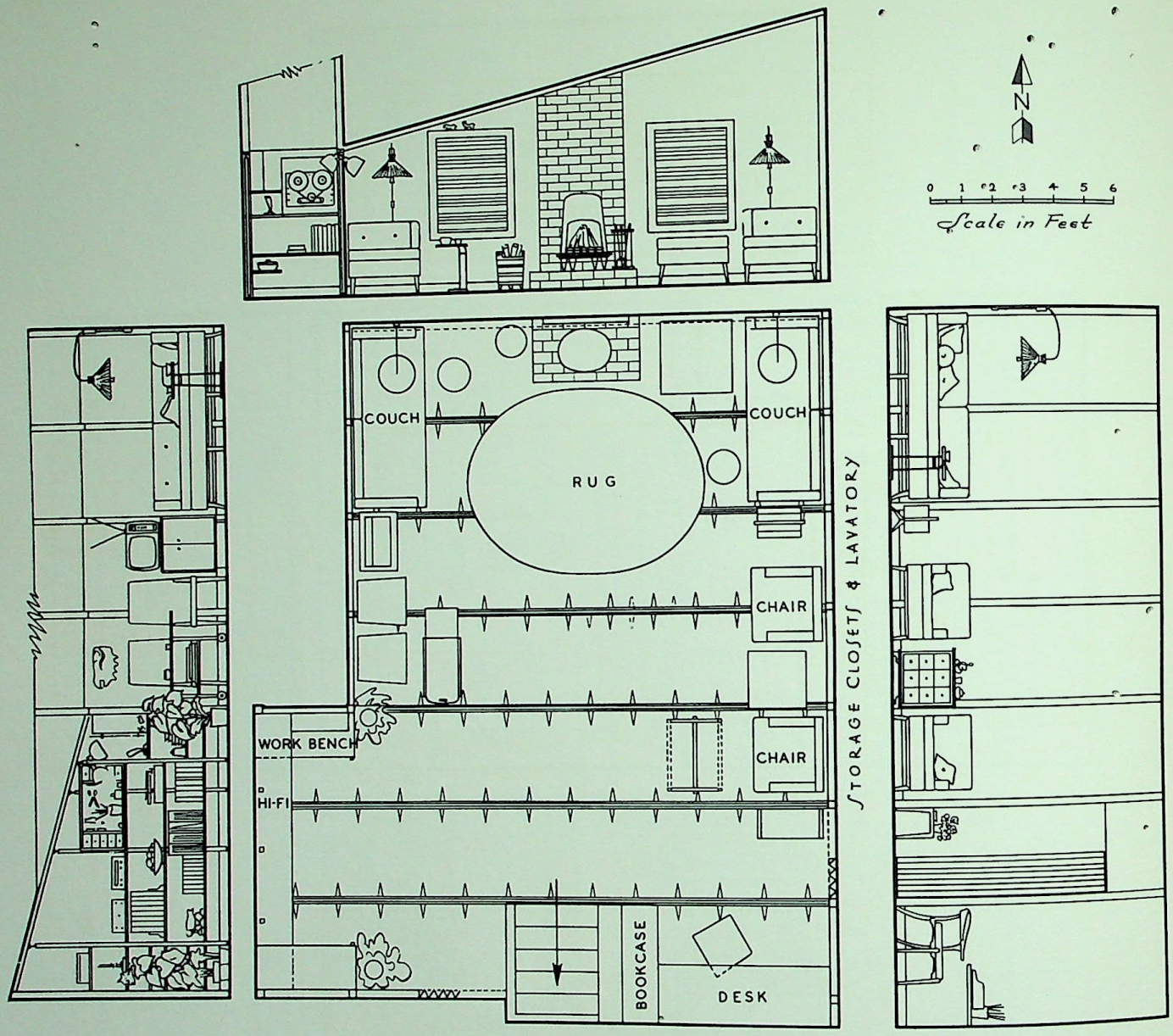
On the West wall, a deep window seat has been built under the window and clothes closets ranged on either side. The floor plan shows the two ceiling-high screens which divide the room into sleeping space for two. The screens, made of plywood on heavy frames, are wallpapered. Adjustable drop lights, essential for comfortable reading at desk or in bed complete the arrangement.



FLOOR·PLAN 16

TWO LITTLE SAVAGES . . . page 82

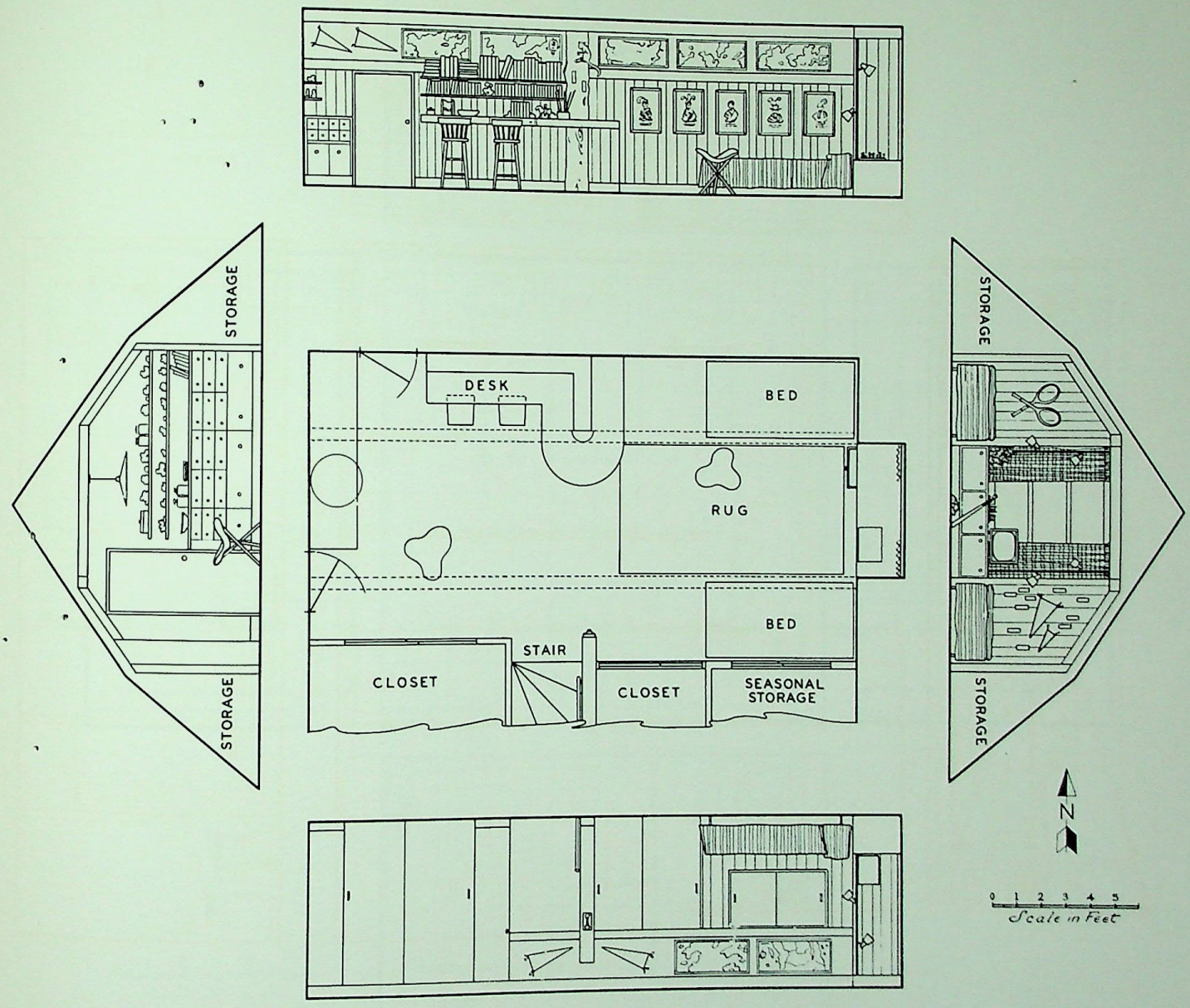
The North wall carries two bunk beds built thirty inches from the floor with a double chest of drawers built in beneath the bed at the right. The West wall is almost entirely window and window seat. The South wall holds two closets and two built-in desks. The walls of the room are covered with a simulated bamboo.



FLOOR PLAN 17

LUXURY AND PRIVACY IN AN ATTIC . . . page 90

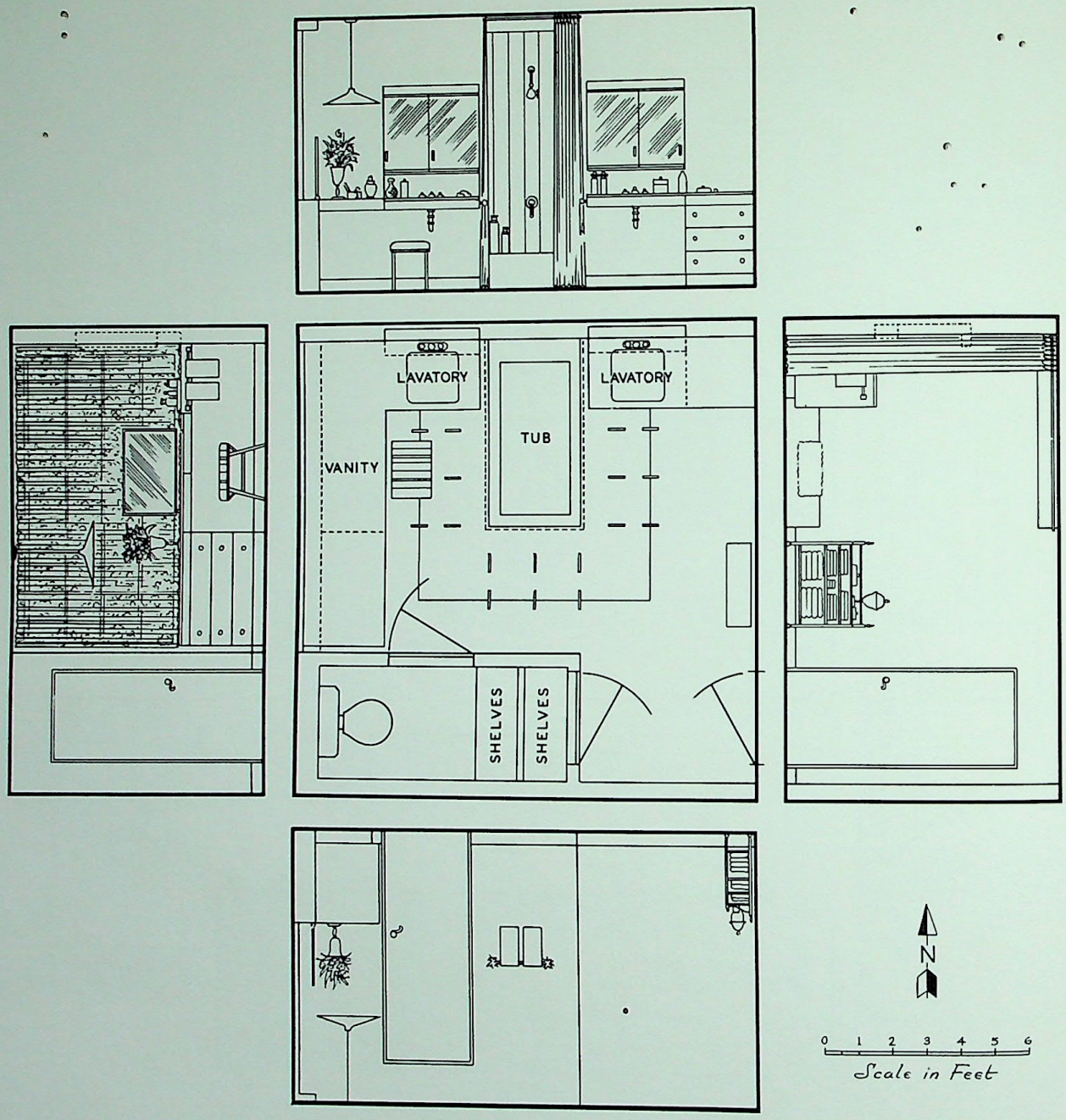
In this attic room, the North wall is the center of attention with its fireplace, brick chimney, two windows, and two couch beds. The West wall, which houses the television set, breaks at a sharp right angle to hold a built-in work bench. The South wall is interrupted by the stairway entrance but still has room for a desk. The ceiling beams are continued down the sides of the walls to make attractive decorations. The insets in the vinyl floor repeat the pattern of the beams.



FLOOR PLAN 18

ATTIC HOBBY ROOM . . . page 92

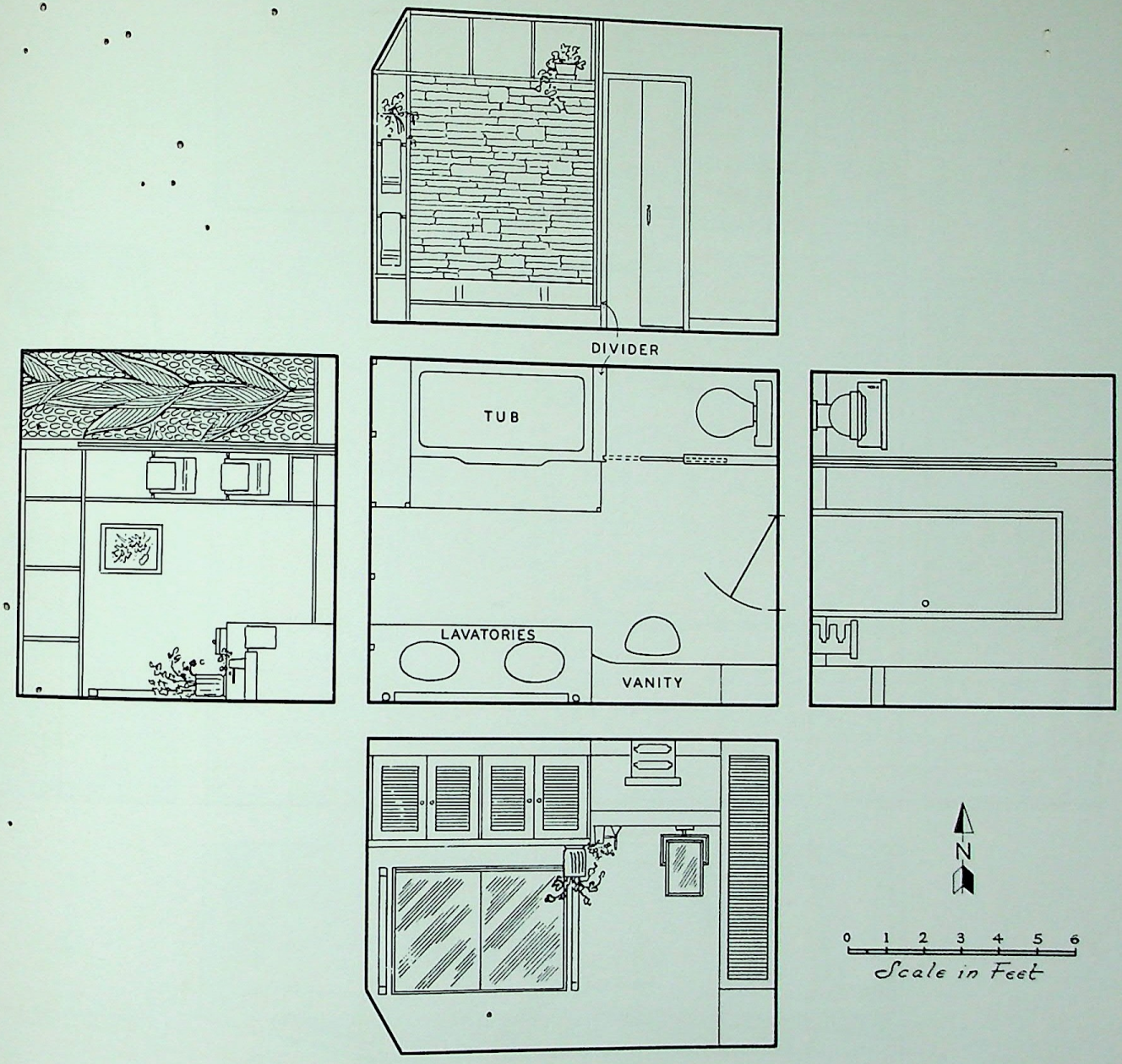
The North wall is finished with wood paneling, with a book bar and study space built in. The West wall offers additional shelf and hobby space. The South wall carries closet and storage space under the eaves. The East wall has a large casement window in place of the original opening. The two beds are on either side of the window.



FLOOR PLAN 19

NEW USE FOR A BATHTUB . . . page 100

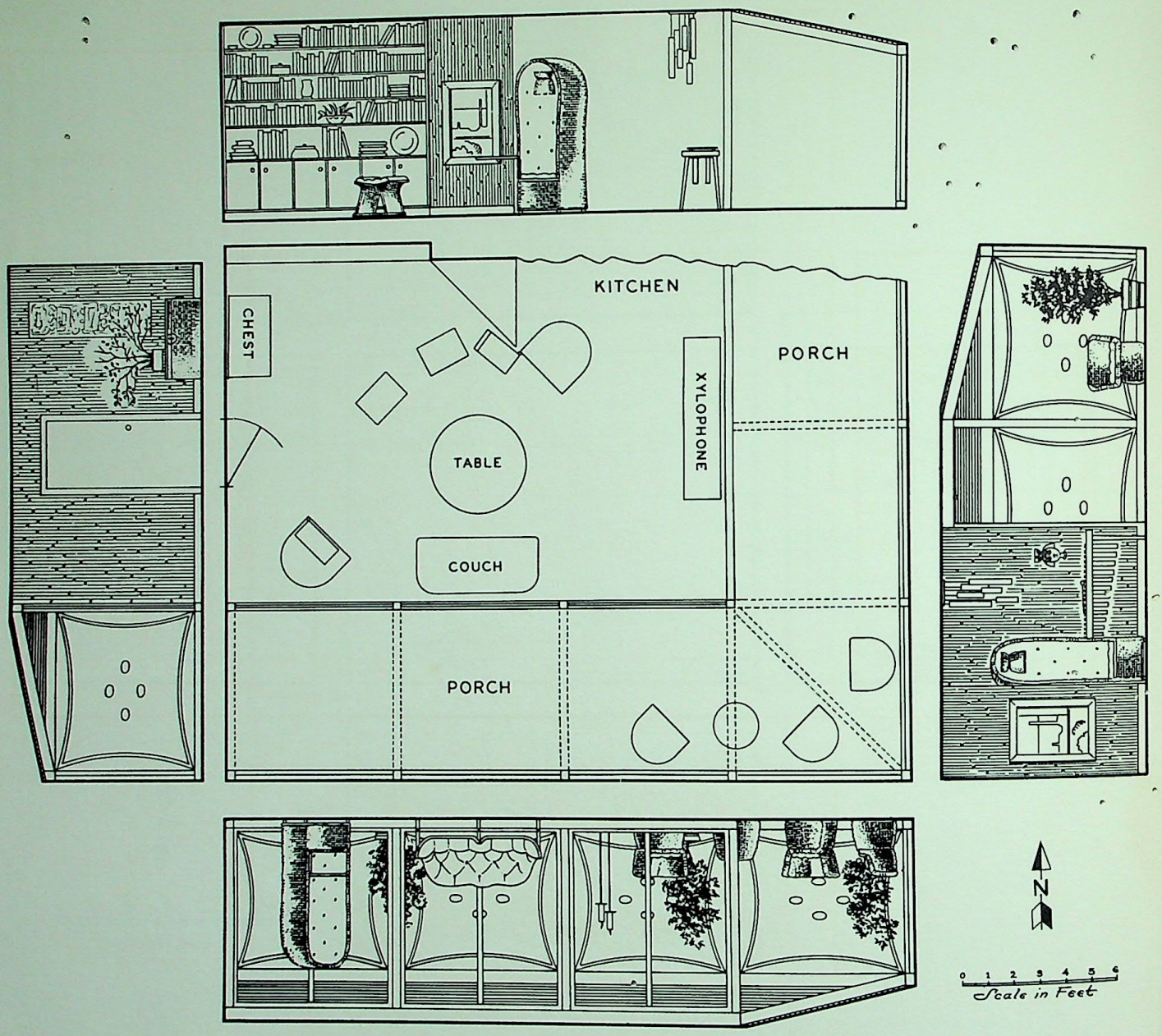
The North wall is divided by the bathtub into two separate dressing rooms. The West wall has a built-in vanity table and drawers under a wide picture window. The South wall is built out to close off the toilet and provide storage shelves for towels, medicines, and other supplies. The floor plan outlines the position of the bathtub and the overhead track in the ceiling for the shower curtain.



FLOOR PLAN 20

SWEDISH SIMPLICITY AND SKYLIGHT WINDOWS . . . page 102

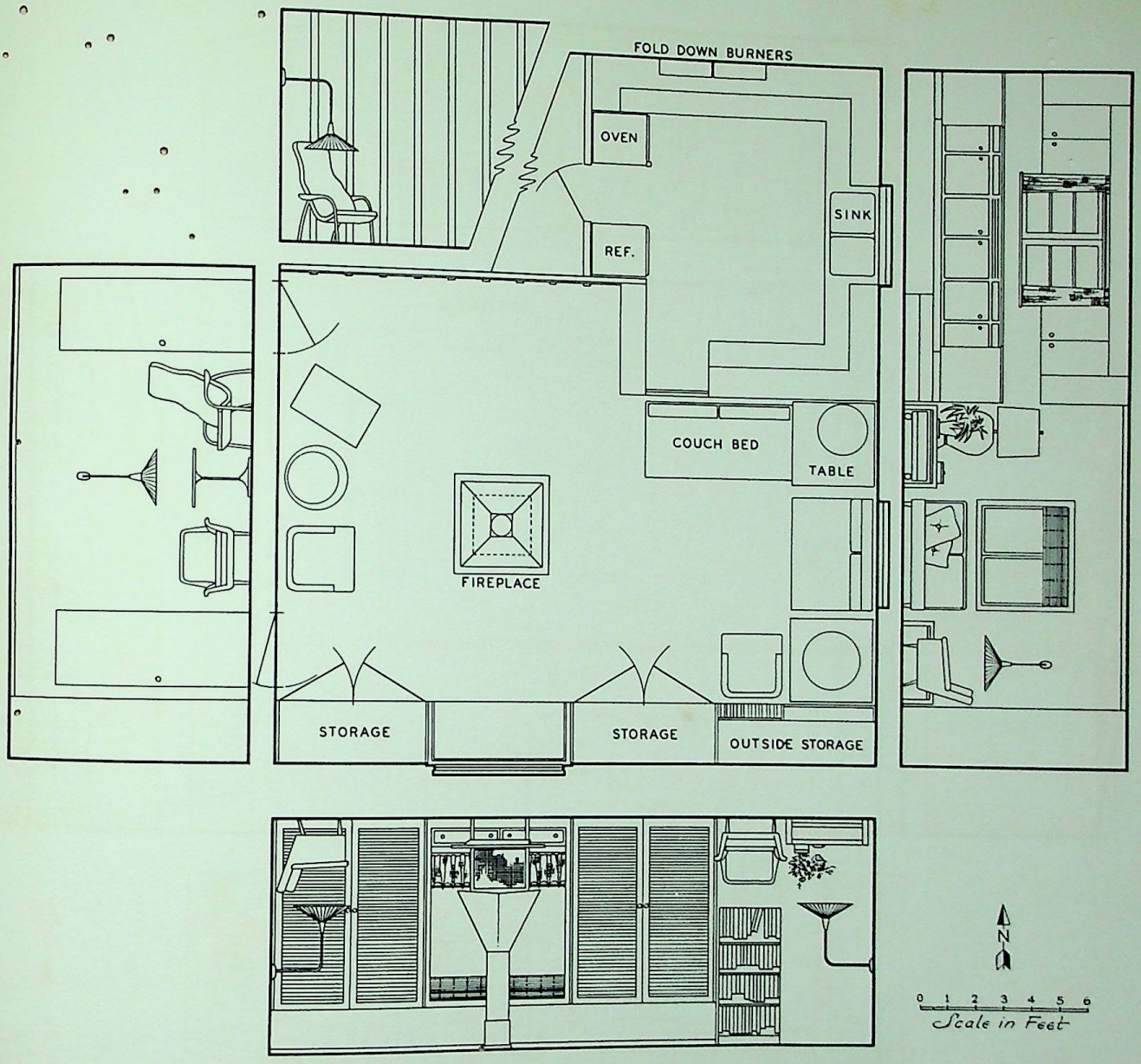
Directly above the North and West walls is a row of skylights. The South wall features twin washbasins and a dressing table counter. On the East wall, the toilet is closed off for privacy. The North wall holds a spectacular floor-to-ceiling divider which separates the bathtub from the toilet area.



FLOOR PLAN 21

EXOTIC AND ECONOMICAL . . . page 116

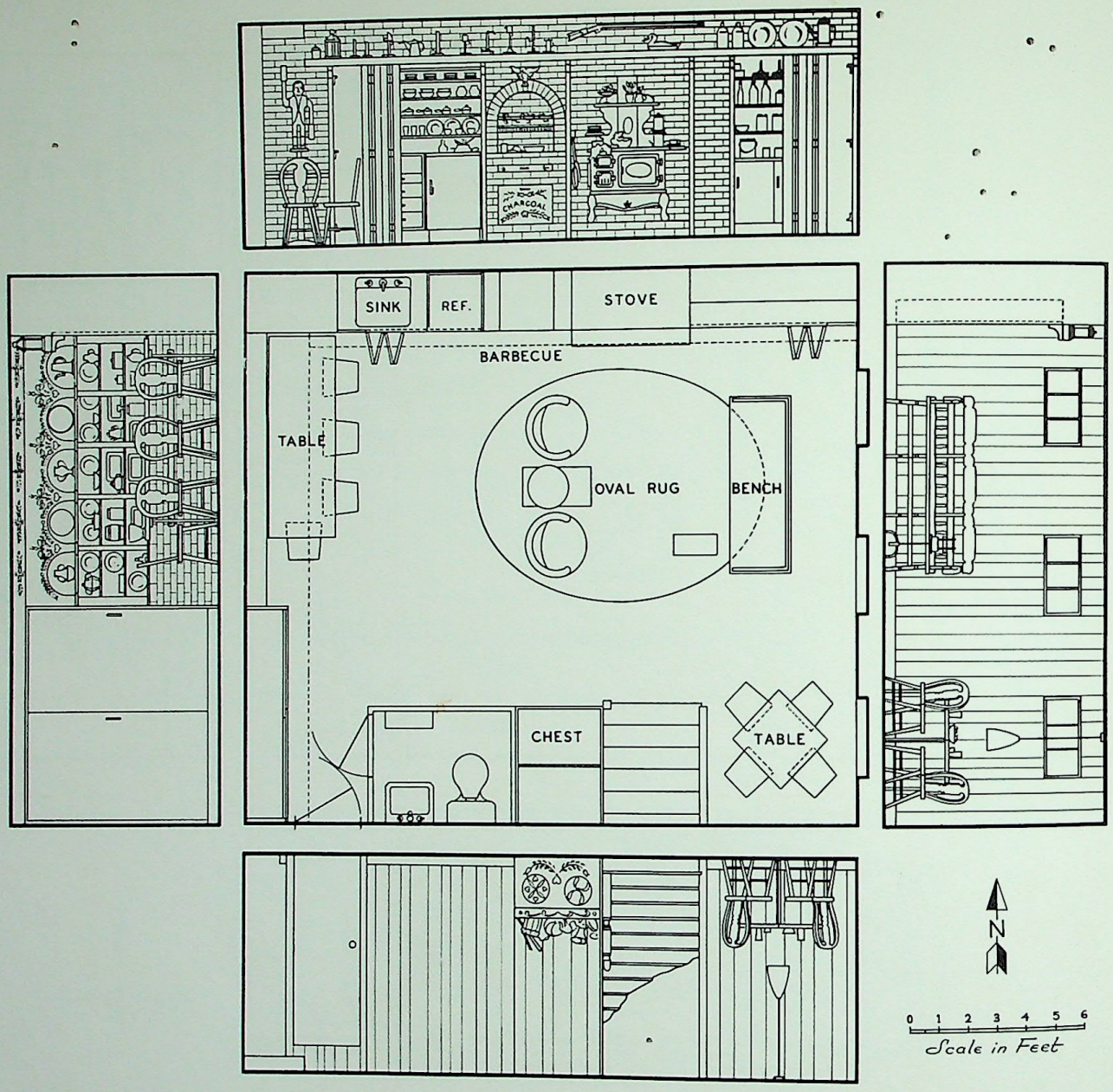
On the North wall, a diagonal divider paneled in bamboo separates the living area from the kitchen. The rest of the wall is furnished with cabinets and bookshelves. The West wall is paneled in bamboo except for the entrance door in the center. The South and East walls are continuous sliding glass doors from floor to ceiling which open onto a very large ell-shaped porch.



FLOOR PLAN 22

A GARAGE CONVERTED FOR EXTRA SPACE . . . page 119

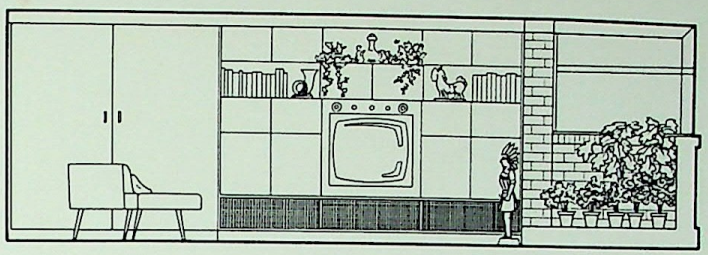
The North wall is wood paneled up to the open stairway leading into the kitchen. The East wall provides ample space for an excellent arrangement of furniture. The South wall carries bookshelves and closets on either side of the central window. The East wall shows the divider and the step leading down from the kitchen to the converted garage. In the middle of the floor is a square barbecue fireplace with a funnel chimney. Since the garage has no upper story, the flue can be extended through the roof.

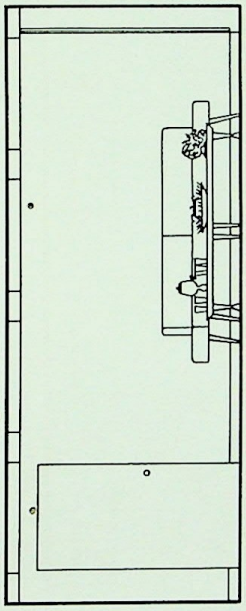


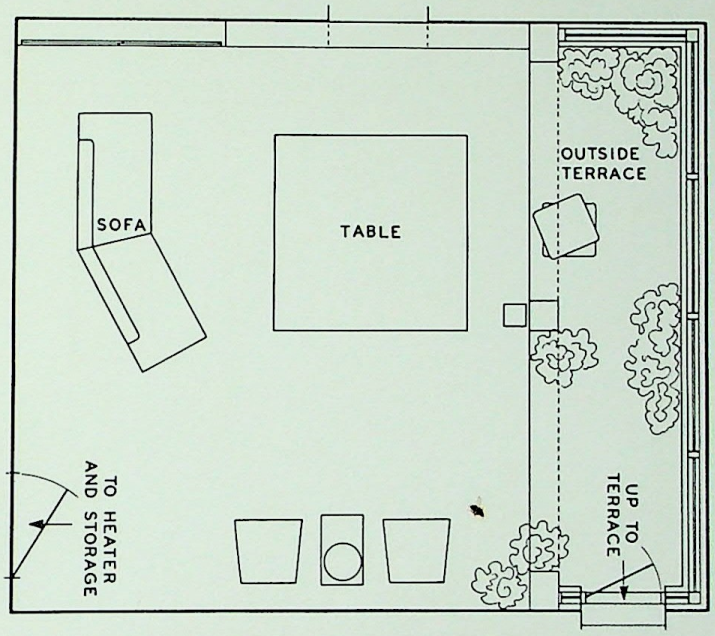
FLOOR PLAN 23

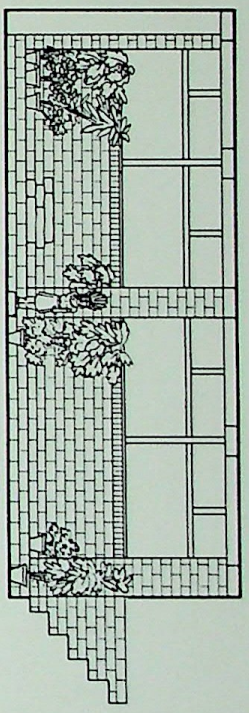
PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH DESIGN . . . page 135

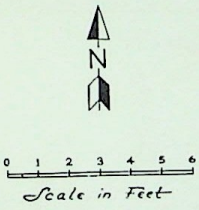
The North wall has a false facing of brick to hide the heating pipes and electric wiring. Brick is relatively expensive, and the same effect can be achieved with embossed brick wallpaper on plywood. The barbecue is built into the wall area. The West wall has built-in recessed shelves with a counter which serves as a useful table. The South wall is built out to conceal the powder room and storage space next to the stairs.

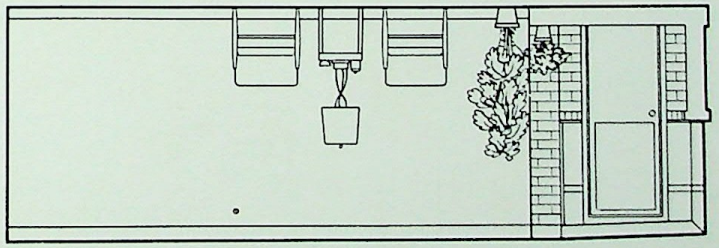












FLOOR PLAN 24

THE GARDEN BASEMENT . . . page 141

The North wall is finished with built-in cabinets, bookshelves, space for a television set, and a generous closet unit. The West wall is wood paneled. The East wall replaces the old basement wall which has been opened up, thus adding six feet of sunken garden space. This wall is built of brick, glass windows, and a glass ceiling, enclosing garden space, and providing a good view of the patio. The South wall shows the new doorway leading to the outside terrace.

THE Armstrong BOOK OF INTERIOR DECORATION

THE Armstrong BOOK OF INTERIOR DECOR

1905

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